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# ARAB TIMES

**WEST END WATCH**  
something new in the watch world...



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JAMADI AL THANI 21, 1409 AH

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## US denies Mideast pact report

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27, (Reuters) The State Department has denied a British television report that said the United States and Soviet Union had agreed on a broad outline and timetable for international Middle East peace talks.

"It's wrong. It's a fantasy. It's certainly not true," a State Department spokesman said of the report by the Independent Television News (ITN).

The report said an agreement in principle had been reached between the superpowers to aim for a peace conference under United Nations auspices.

ITN said it had obtained the information from sources in Washington and the Middle East.

It said the superpowers had agreed on the need for direct talks between Israel and Arabs including the PLO and for free elections in the occupied territories.

President Bush said today that the US was only beginning its relations with the PLO and that it was too soon to say when a top member of his administration would meet with PLO chairman Yasser Arafat.

He said the US would continue to have a dialogue with the organization "as long as they stay hooked and stay committed" to principles aimed at negotiating peace with Israel.

Bush telephoned Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir on Wednesday and invited him to Washington.

## Kuwait will buy arms from East and West

PARIS, Jan. 27, (KUNA): HH the Crown Prince and Premier of Kuwait, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah has said that Kuwait will continue to purchase modern weapons from both the East and the West and will provide the best training for the armed forces.

However, he added, the strengthening of the armed forces does not prevent Kuwait from making efforts to solve disputes through peaceful methods.

In an interview with the weekly Al Watan Al Arabi magazine, Sheikh Saad hoped for a peaceful solution to the Iraq-Iran conflict.

### Effects

Commenting on the effect of peace in the region, he said: "If an agreement is reached on the basis of United Nations Security Council Resolution 598, the Gulf area will witness more prosperity."

On the possibility of resumption of the Gulf war which raged for eight years, Sheikh Saad said: "We cannot remove the effects of such a long war within eight days or eight weeks. Things are still tense, but with the continuation



Sheikh Saad  
of the dialogue and negotiations, the results will be positive."

He expressed Kuwait's readiness to contribute to any international funds established for the reconstruction of Iran and Iraq.

### Prevent

Sheikh Saad also said Kuwait will continue its efforts to end the Lebanese crisis. He said: "Kuwait will keep on working to restore peace and harmony in Lebanon. But the Lebanese themselves must work

towards that end." Speaking on the role being played by the six-member Arab League committee, headed by Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed, he stressed: "Time is ripe for the Lebanese to sense the danger and listen to the voice of reason."

Sheikh Saad said that the "silent majority" should speak up and prevent the destruction of this Arab country.

Regarding the Mideast crisis, the Kuwaiti premier predicted that a formula for holding an international peace conference would be ready within three or four months.

### Crisis

Asked about his opinion of US President Bush, Sheikh Saad said: "It seems to me that he has the desire to resolve all issues and crises, including the Palestinian issue, but it's too difficult to do that all at once at the start of his term and he needs time."

He stressed a firm Arab stand would make everyone listen to Arab demands, including the establishment of a Palestinian state.

## Efforts to break peace talks deadlock

## UN envoy in search of new incentives to lure Iraq, Iran

NICOSIA, Jan. 27, (Reuters): UN mediator Jan Eliasson arrived in Iraq from Iran today searching for "new incentives" which might lure the Gulf war foes back to the bargaining table after an 11-week stand-off.

But both countries publicly reiterated their known stands — each blaming the other for the deadlock and demanding concessions to break it.

Eliasson told the Iraqi News Agency (INA) he discussed the whole range of issues with officials in Tehran but it was too early to say whether his mission would bring positive results.

"There has been a need for a new incentive," he said. "I hope this stage will be a contribution towards achieving peace."

He arrived at the southern Iraqi city of Basra with General Slavko Jovic, Yugoslav com-

mander of the United Nations team of military observers monitoring the ceasefire which took effect last August.

Tehran Radio said Eliasson described his trip to Tehran as useful and he hoped that a date for resuming the talks could be set after he discussed the issue with Iraqi officials.

An Asian diplomat in Baghdad said that Eliasson's mission was not expected to bring a major breakthrough because "both parties show no signs of compromise or willingness to set aside thorny issues and move to smoother ones."

The Iraqi government newspaper Al Jumhuriya said Eliasson would hear in Baghdad the same thing that he had heard from Iraqi negotiators in Geneva.

Iraq insists that the ceasefire should be fixed before negotiations move on to other items in Resolution 598, the UN Security Council's ceasefire resolution, and that the dredging of the Shatt Al Arab border waterway is part of the ceasefire.

Iraq rejects the idea that the waterway should be cleaned of war debris before its legal status, one of the basic issues of the eight-year war, is resolved.

Priority It says top priority should be given to the withdrawal of the Iraqi troops it says still occupy 1,000 sq km (400 sq miles) of its western territory.

In Rome, Iraq's First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan said yesterday Iran and Iraq could begin to exchange prisoners of war within two months if there was a real desire to do so.

But with the ceasefire in the Gulf war against Iraq in August and the adoption of a more moderate foreign policy by Iran, several foreign policy favouring improvement in ties with the United States have appeared in the Iranian press.

The Iranian newspaper Ettelaat said Tehran should take up Bush's offer and co-operate with the Americans on the host issue.

But the hardliners in the Iranian leadership stand firm against ties with the "great satan," as Iran described the United States.

"A wolf is a wolf even in a sheep's clothing. A wolf's nature will never change," the Iranian news agency IRNA quoted Interior Minister Ali Akbar Mohtashemi as saying yesterday.

## Iran does not need America: Khamenei

NICOSIA, Jan. 27, (Reuters): Iranian President Ali Khamenei said today Tehran did not need ties with the United States, rejecting a signal for better relations by US President George Bush.

"The Iranian nation does not need America. The American President, who has set conditions for resumption of ties with Iran, should know that it is we who have declared conditions," Tehran Radio quoted Khamenei as saying in a Friday prayer sermon.

In his inaugural speech last week, Bush made a passing remark about American hostages held in Lebanon by pro-Iranian militants, making clear that Washington would respond positively to any help leading to their release.

### Arrogant

"We have always said that we will restart relations with America at a time when it has given up its arrogant ways," Tehran Radio monitored in Nicosia quoted Khamenei as saying.

"We do not accept American oppression and interference in the affairs of other countries," Khamenei said.

Iranian leaders have demanded the unblocking of Iranian assets frozen in the United States for 10 years as a goodwill gesture from Washington before resumption of ties.

They have also said they would intercede with their Lebanese allies on behalf of the 10 American hostages if the US government used its influence to free four Iranians they say were kidnapped by right-wing Christian militias in Lebanon in 1982.

Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Khomeini, repeated his rejection of ties with the United States in November, saying Washington acted like a wolf towards a lamb in dealing with Tehran.

### Adoption

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## Hundreds of Afghan civilians massacred

ISLAMABAD, Jan. 27, (Agencies): A massive artillery bombardment by Soviet and Afghan forces killed hundreds of civilians after fierce fighting to reopen the main highway linking the Soviet Union and Kabul.

Western diplomatic sources have said.

Quoting eyewitness reports, the sources said entire villages were destroyed in Monday's artillery bombardment south of the vital Salang tunnel through which most Soviet supplies must pass to reach Kabul.

The sources said that eye witnesses reported seeing Soviet tanks rolling over the bodies of some of the civilians killed on the Salang highway north of Kabul, where a rebel siege and a harsh winter have caused severe food and fuel shortages.

### Evacuation

The deteriorating situation in Kabul has prompted the United States, West Germany and Japan to order the evacuation of their embassies in anticipation of a bloody struggle for control of the capital after the last Soviet troops are withdrawn by Feb 15.

Most embassies and aid agencies cut their staff last August during a period of heavy rebel

rocket attacks on Kabul. The US has some 16 expatriates, Britain 18, France five, Italy six, Turkey and Japan four each.

The US embassy in Kabul locked its grey steel doors today and the skeleton crew began making plans for their departure.

Japan, France and Britain also said they would shut down their embassies.

The UN aid bodies have steadily reduced their numbers from 150, including families, last June, to about 14, with a further five due to go by the end of January.

US President Bush was described yesterday as closely watching the situation in Afghanistan.

### Intimidating

The President is receiving frequent intelligence reports on the status of the Soviet pullout and other matters and is watching the Afghan situation "on a daily basis," said Press Secretary Martin Fitzwater.

The reports of Soviet-Afghan attacks could not be confirmed independently, but the Islamabad-based diplomats said one of three sources who reported the massive destruction was a diplomat who is an outspoken

supporter of the Soviet-backed government in Kabul.

They did not identify the diplomat further.

The sources said the bombardment appeared aimed at intimidating the forces of guerrilla leader Ahmad Shah Masood which were trying to stop supplies reaching the Afghan capital from the Soviet Union.

The Afghan government said on Tuesday its forces had killed 377 of Masood's men and reopened the road.

The diplomatic sources said areas north and south of the Salang tunnel were bombed during the fighting. Soviet and Afghan artillery then opened up, destroying all houses south of it.

"According to eyewitnesses, no dwellings remain," said one.

Meanwhile, Soviet Defence Minister Dmitri Yazov arrived in Kabul on a previously unannounced visit. A Soviet embassy official said Yazov was meeting Afghan President Najibullah but could give no further details.

Western diplomats said Yazov had probably come to make a final review of the withdrawal, which began several days ago in (Continued on Page 2)

## Republic Day parade held under tight security

## India displays its military might

NEW DELHI, Jan. 27, (UPI): Under unprecedented protection against Sikh extremist attacks, India yesterday displayed its military might in a parade of pomp and pageantry commemorating the adoption of its 1950 constitution.

Authorities ordered an unprecedented security cover of police and helicopters to avert attacks by Sikh extremists following intelligence reports that militants planned to disrupt Republic Day celebrations to avenge the Jan 6 hanging of two Sikhs convicted in the Oct 31, 1984, slaying of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

### Chances

Police armed with submachine guns patrolled New Delhi streets in vehicles and manned roadblocks, occasionally searching vehicles.

"All sorts of reports are coming regarding regrouping of terrorists for retaliation in the capital," said New Delhi police Commissioner Vijay Karan. "We are taking no chances in this matter."

President Ramaswamy Venkataraman presided over the parade from atop a reviewing stand in which Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Vice-President Shankar Dayal Sharma also sat. The sides of the stand were protected by bullet-proof glass panes.

The guest of honour was Vietnamese Communist Party chief Nguyen van Linh, who began a weeklong visit on Monday that includes talks with Indian officials on bilateral and inter-

national issues, particularly the search for peace in Vietnamese-occupied Kampuchea.

Some 10,000 policemen guarded the parade route packed by hundreds of thousands of people, who watched a two-hour procession of military hardware and floats representing India's diverse cultures and ethnic groups.

### Artillery

Millions of other Indians viewed the parade on television. The pageant began with Russian-built Mi-17 helicopters that dropped flower petals on spectators lining central New Delhi's ceremonial Rajpath drive. They were followed by a column of tanks, artillery and missile launchers of the Indian military, which is mostly Soviet-equipped and is the world's fourth largest.

Among the weapons displayed were the Soviet-built MIG-27 and the British-built Jaguar jet fighter.

Military contingents marched in time to music played by brass bands or bagpipers, followed by floats and dancing school children waving colourful flags and streamers.

Smaller parades and rallies were held across the country to mark the adoption on Jan 26, 1950, of the constitution that made India a republic three years after it gained independence from Britain.

HH the Amir of Kuwait sent a congratulatory message to Venkataraman yesterday. HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah sent a similar message to Rajiv.

## Baker confirmed

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27, (UPI): The Senate has voted unanimously to confirm three of President Bush's nominees to his cabinet, including his politically savvy friend James Baker as Secretary of State.

Senators on Wednesday voted 99-0 on three successive roll calls in favour of Baker, chairman of Bush's presidential campaign, for the No. 1 position in the cabinet, for Elizabeth Dole as Labour Secretary, and for Richard Darman as Budget Director.

Following the confirmation vote, Baker was sworn into office on Wednesday evening at the White House, succeeding George Shultz. Dole and Darman were to be sworn in later.

No opposition to the three government veterans was expressed, reflecting the spirit of political goodwill between Bush and the Congress that emerged after the Nov 8 election and which was promoted in the President's inaugural address.

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## A laugh a day may keep the doctor away

CHICAGO, Jan. 27, (Reuters): A laugh a day might keep the doctor away, Swedish researchers suggested in a report published yesterday.

Six women suffering from painful musculo-skeletal disorders and feeling depressed were subjected to 13 "humour group" sessions featuring jokes, books, films and other material unrelated to their illness, the report said.

The patients' psychological well-being increased and their physical symptoms eased, said the researchers at Lyckorna primary health-care centre in Motala, Sweden.

"The study suggests that a humour therapy programme can increase the quality of life for patients with chronic problems and that laughter has an immediate symptom-relieving effect for these patients," said the study published in this week's issue of the journal of the American Medical Association.

Truck accident KATHMANDU, Jan. 27, (AP): Nine Indian labourers died and 13 more were injured when the truck carrying them overturned at the village of Bardibas, southeast of Kathmandu, the Nepalese national news agency, RSS reported today.

## Arafat calls for EEC recognition

MADRID, Jan. 27, (Reuters): PLO chairman Yasser Arafat held his first official talks with the European Economic Community today in a bid to enlist EEC support for an international conference aimed at ending the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Arafat met the foreign ministers of Spain, the current President of the EEC council of ministers, France and Greece for two hours and told them Europe should be involved in efforts to bring about such a conference, diplomats said.

Diplomats said Arafat called informally for EEC recognition of Palestine in his talks with the three ministers, known as the "troika," and in a four-hour meeting with Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez last night.

### Dialogue

The three men were designated to spearhead an EEC Middle East peace initiative launched after the PLO recognised Israel's right to exist and opened a dialogue with the United States.

Israel has rejected an international peace conference and called for direct talks with its Arab neighbours.

The PLO leader, eager to promote his new image as a peacemaker, later had an

audience with King Juan Carlos, something not granted when he first visited Madrid 10 years ago.

Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordonez has said the purpose of Arafat's 24-hour visit was "to inform and be informed" rather than seek tangible results.

None of the 12 EEC member countries has recognised the independent state of Palestine proclaimed in Tunis last year by the Palestine parliament-in-exile. Diplomats have said recognition by individual members would create divisions within the group.

A Spanish government spokesman said Arafat and Gonzalez, during their talks yesterday, agreed that prospects for the search for peace looked good, and 1989 would be a crucial year.

Their talks centred on how to start negotiations leading to a peace conference sponsored by the United Nations, and Gonzalez told Arafat the EEC would focus on ways of launching a dialogue based on the Palestinians' right to self-determination and Israel's right to secure borders.

Spanish diplomats said the EEC approach also included withdrawal of Israel from the (Continued on Page 2)



Arafat

## India denies opening consulate in Israel

NEW DELHI, Jan. 27, (KUNA): India denied yesterday that it has decided to open a consulate in Tel Aviv.

An official spokesman at the Indian External Affairs Ministry said that a report broadcast by Israeli Radio was part of "Israeli disinformation service."

Radio Israel said on Wednesday that the two sides have agreed to restore diplomatic ties. Though Israel has an interest section in Bombay, whose jurisdiction has been extended up to Kerala, India has no consulate office in Israel.

## Arab missiles 'can hit' any part of Israel

HERZLIYA, Israel, Jan. 27, (Reuters): Arab missiles, some equipped with chemical warheads, can now hit any point in Israel, a colonel in Israeli Air Force intelligence has said.

"Because of our lack of strategic depth, every point in Israel is currently threatened by short-range surface to surface missiles, which in Syria are equipped with chemical warheads," the officer told newsmen on a rare tour of Israel's air defence school.

The colonel, who identified himself as "Yitzhak" and asked not to be photographed, also said Iraq could hit Tel Aviv with the new "Al Hussein" missile.

"We believe Iraq is heavily engaged today in adapting combat-proven chemical warheads to its missiles and is developing a biological warfare capability as well," he said.

Television reports in the

United States said last week Israel had threatened to destroy an Iraqi biological warfare centre unless work was halted. Iraq denied receiving any such threat and denied plans for germ warfare.

The officer said Syria, Israel's most serious potential foe, was also working on biological weapons.

But air defence forces commander Brigadier General Uri Ram said Israel could counter Arab threats.

"We cannot accept the type of harm that would be done to us by such weapons and the states that have them know we will do something serious about it if we are hit by them," Ram said.

Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin said last week Israel would strike back 100-fold if hit by chemical or biological weapons but did not specify what form the response would take.

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## آج کے اردو صفحات میں

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اسلحے سے لیس کیا جائے گا شیخ

○ پاکستان میں آج ضمنی  
انتخابات منعقد ہوں گے

○ سوویت وزیر خارجہ  
پاکستان کے دورے پر جائیں گے

○ نواز شریف کے خلاف  
تحقیقات

○ سری لنکا میں فسادات کی نئی  
لہریں پکاس افراطیاب

○ کویت نے فٹ بال میں  
پاکستان کو ہرا دیا

○ لاہور نامہ

## WEATHER

TEMPERATURE will decrease gradually with moderate northerly to north-easterly wind.  
State of sea: moderate to rough  
High water: 3.00 am, 3.56 pm  
Low water: 9.30 am, 10.15 pm  
Sunrise: 6.40 am  
Sunset: 5.22 pm  
Maximum temperatures recorded:  
Kuwait: 19°C 66°F  
Ahmad: 16°C 61°F  
Faiaka: 17°C 63°F  
Minimum temperatures recorded:  
Kuwait: 6°C 43°F  
Ahmad: 8°C 46°F  
Faiaka: 9°C 48°F  
Maximum temperatures expected:  
Kuwait: 16°C 61°F  
Ahmad: 14°C 57°F  
Faiaka: 15°C 59°F  
Maximum humidity recorded:  
Kuwait: 67 per cent  
Ahmad: 78 per cent  
Faiaka: 85 per cent



## Tower expresses doubts about SDI

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27. (Agencies): Defence Secretary-designate John Tower told senators it would be "unrealistic" to think Star Wars could shield everyone in the country from a nuclear holocaust, an outlook that differs from former President Reagan's optimism about the space-based missile defence system.

Cautioning that he didn't want to get "out in front" of President George Bush's statements on the Strategic Defense Initiative, Tower said that SDI was part of an effort to move nuclear strategy from an offensive to a defensive focus.

But, he cautioned, "it remains to be seen whether that is a realistic objective."

On the second day of confirmation hearings yesterday before the Senate Armed Services Committee, Tower also said he will be impartial despite having received more than \$1 million in consulting fees from seven defence contractors.

"I intend to be very, very objective," the former Texas senator told the panel he once chaired. "There will always be people who will be sceptical. I learned during the past two months that not everybody loves me."

Reagan launched the SDI programme five years ago and

said it should be aimed at building a ballistic missile defence (BMD) that would protect the US from Soviet nuclear attack. Bush said during last fall's campaign that he favoured deployment of a limited SDI system as soon as possible.

Tower told the committee: "To begin with, I don't believe that we can devise a BMD umbrella that can protect the entire American population from nuclear incineration. I think that's unrealistic."

Discussing his consulting work, Tower testified that over a three-year period he received \$1,028,777 in fees from defence contractors, including such industry giants as Rockwell International, Martin-Marietta and LTV.

Critics have expressed concern that Tower's closeness to the industry and his reputation as a confirmed hawk would give at least the appearance of conflict of interest and raise questions about his ability to deal effectively with America's huge defence establishment.

But Tower, was praised for his forthrightness and won the clear support of the committee with a vow that he had severed all ties with his previous associates and would not take part in any decision to ban them from defence contracting.

## 4 students injured in Washington shooting

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27. (UPI): A shooting that left four students wounded outside a crowded high school campus was apparently sparked in part by a long-running basketball rivalry with students from another school, witnesses and police said.

The gunfire erupted about 2:30 pm yesterday at Woodrow Wilson High School as hundreds of students were leaving campus, police spokeswoman Shannon Cockett said. The expansive campus is situated in a tree-lined, affluent section of northwest Washington.

Police said two gunmen fired into a crowd of students outside the school, wounding four, including two members of the school's basketball team.

The suspects, believed to be teenagers, fled and had not been caught by early today.

Although the attack occurred in an area that has so far been relatively free of the city's growing crime rate and lucrative drug trade, police and school officials said they could not rule out drugs as possibly playing a part.

But witnesses said the shooting stemmed from a lunchtime argument, apparently between some of the victims and students from Cardozo High School, a cross-town basketball rival.

Public schools spokesman Charles Seigel said the argument involved two men who do not attend the school.

"Police have told us that (the suspects) were at the school at lunch time and they had an argument with the victims," Seigel said.

## Solidarity leader Walesa opens talks with Polish authorities

WARSAW, Jan. 27. (UPI): Solidarity leader Lech Walesa opened preliminary talks today with Polish authorities on the beginning of the critical talks on the future of the trade union that was banned in 1982, a Solidarity source said.

The source said the talks opened in the secluded government villa outside Warsaw.

Earlier, both sides intended to have six subject groups, including a group dealing with the legal issues of Solidarity and another one on the formation of the rural Solidarity.

The source did not say how many people accompanied Walesa during the talks but the government side was represented by Communist Party's Politburo

member Stanislaw Ciosek and Interior Minister Czeslaw Kiszczak.

### Secluded

Walesa, who arrived early yesterday from his home in Gdansk, avoided reporters in Warsaw and secluded himself with his advisers. He did not attend the funeral of pro-Solidarity priest who was slain on Sunday.

Onyszkiewicz said Walesa, the 1983 Nobel peace prize recipient, will hold a news conference tomorrow.

Prime Minister Mieczyslaw Rakowski on Wednesday announced the government wants to begin talks on Feb 5 on legalizing the Solidarity trade union and indicated it is accelerating the pace of its

political reforms by moving up the date of fall parliamentary elections to May.

At the so-called round-table talks, representatives of the government, the union and other sectors also would discuss what role a restored Solidarity might assume and explore how to end the economic crisis in Poland, which is saddled with a \$39 billion foreign debt and an inefficient, centralized planning system that stifles private initiative.

The talks were to have begun in October, but was postponed by disputes between the government and the trade union, whose founding nearly nine years ago in the northern Baltic port of Gdansk propelled Walesa to international fame.

## Ariane rocket launched

KOUROU, French Guiana, Jan. 27. (AP): Europe's Ariane 2 rocket, overcoming a brief hitch, launched the international communications satellite Intelsat V-F15 into earth's orbit last night.

Takeoff from the European Space Agency launch pad on the Atlantic coast of South America took place at 10:21 pm (0121 GMT today), following a 53-minute delay caused by an indicator light mistakenly suggesting that the valve on a hydrogen reservoir was leaking, Ariane officials said.

### Success

The faulty indicator automatically halted the countdown just 18 seconds before the scheduled liftoff. But technicians were able to determine quickly that the valve was working properly.

About 35 minutes after the launch, Ariane officials announced that the satellite was

in orbit and declared the mission a success. In the coming days, the orbit will be adjusted to station the Intelsat V-F15 over the Indian Ocean.

The 4,400-pound (2,000-kilogramme) satellite, with 36 transponders to carry television and telephone communications, is to join 13 others operated by Intelsat — the international telecommunications satellite organisation.

The Intelsat network, a non-profit co-operative of 115 countries, carries more than half of all international telephone calls and nearly all transoceanic television transmissions.

The launch is the first of the year for Ariane, a consortium of 50 European companies that is responsible for the commercial exploitation of the Ariane series of rockets developed by the European space agency.

## Arafat calls for EEC recognition

(Continued from Page 1)

occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and respect of human rights.

Fernandez Ordonez and his French counterpart Roland Dumas recently visited Israel, and members of the EEC troika planned to travel next month to Egypt and Jordan.

Israel expressed "grave disappointment" at Arafat-EEC talks. An Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman in occupied Jerusalem said today that the talks will not contribute to peace.

In London, Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe has said he might meet with Arafat "at a certain stage" if there was something to discuss with the PLO leader.

"I'm not looking for a meeting for the sake of a meeting," he told a news conference when asked whether he saw any value in meeting with Arafat.

"The possibility of such a meeting is not excluded," he said, adding: "I've no doubt that one will be possible at a certain stage."

## Hundreds of Afghan ...

(Continued from Page 1)

giant Ilyushin-76 transport planes.

UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar has been invited to attend ceremonies marking the completion of Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan, a UN spokesman said.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze will hold crucial talks on the Afghan war with Pakistani leaders in early February, a Pakistani official said in Islamabad today.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Sex education

ATHENS, Jan. 27. (AP): Youngsters from seventh grade upwards will be taught sex education on an experimental basis starting next September, Greek newspapers reported today.

"Around 360 teachers will be specially trained to teach the class at 30 schools nationwide," Education Minister George Papandreu was quoted as saying.

### Pardon

NICOSIA, Jan. 27. (Reuters): More than 1,100 prisoners will be freed in two Iranian provinces during next month's celebrations to mark the 10th anniversary of the Islamic revolution, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported today.

### Troop cuts

PRAGUE, Jan. 27. (AP): Czechoslovakia announced today it will cut its armed forces by 12,000 men and reduce its Army budget by 15 per cent in the next two years.

The move followed similar announcements of unilateral troop cuts by East Germany and Hungary, and of defence spending reductions in Warsaw Pact ally Poland.

### War criminals freed

BREDA, Netherlands, Jan. 27. (Reuters): The Netherlands today freed two German war criminals imprisoned since World War Two.

Franz Fischer, 87, and Ferdinandus Aus Der Fuenten, 79, convicted of sending thousands to their deaths, were driven out of Koepel prison in Breda hours after Parliament sanctioned their release.

### Chinese sex movie

BEIJING, Jan. 27. (AP): There are no sex scenes in what has been billed in advance as China's "first sex movie," and audiences are not pleased.

"It was boring," one viewer said today after watching "Widows' Village," a 90-minute tale of love-making restrictions set in a 1940s-era fishing village.

## Rabin aide holds talks with jailed Palestinian

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Jan. 27. (AP): An adviser to Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin has held secret meetings with a jailed Palestinian leader and reports of their talks have been passed to top PLO officials abroad, an Israeli newspaper said today.

Defence Ministry spokesman Eitan Haber, reached by telephone, declined to comment on the report. Israel has a policy of refusing to negotiate with the PLO and bitterly protested the US decision last month to open a dialogue with the organisation.

The jailed Palestinian, Faisal Al Hussein, is due to be freed from prison on Sunday, and the Hebrew-language newspaper Hadaashot reported he would meet with Rabin after his release to discuss the defence minister's plans for peace negotiations.

### Confirmed

The conversations were between Shmuel Goren, Israel's policy co-ordinator for the West Bank, and Hussein, whom the Defence Ministry confirmed yesterday would be freed, the daily Maariv reported.

It said the two discussed various possible peace initiatives, including Rabin's plan to hold elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and to grant Arabs limited autonomy following a three to six month ceasefire in the Palestinian uprising.

Israeli soldiers shot and wounded six Arab demonstrators today in scattered clashes in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, Palestinian sources said.

The Israeli Army, meanwhile, demolished four houses in the West Bank yesterday to punish Arabs suspected of hurling firebombs at Israeli vehicles.

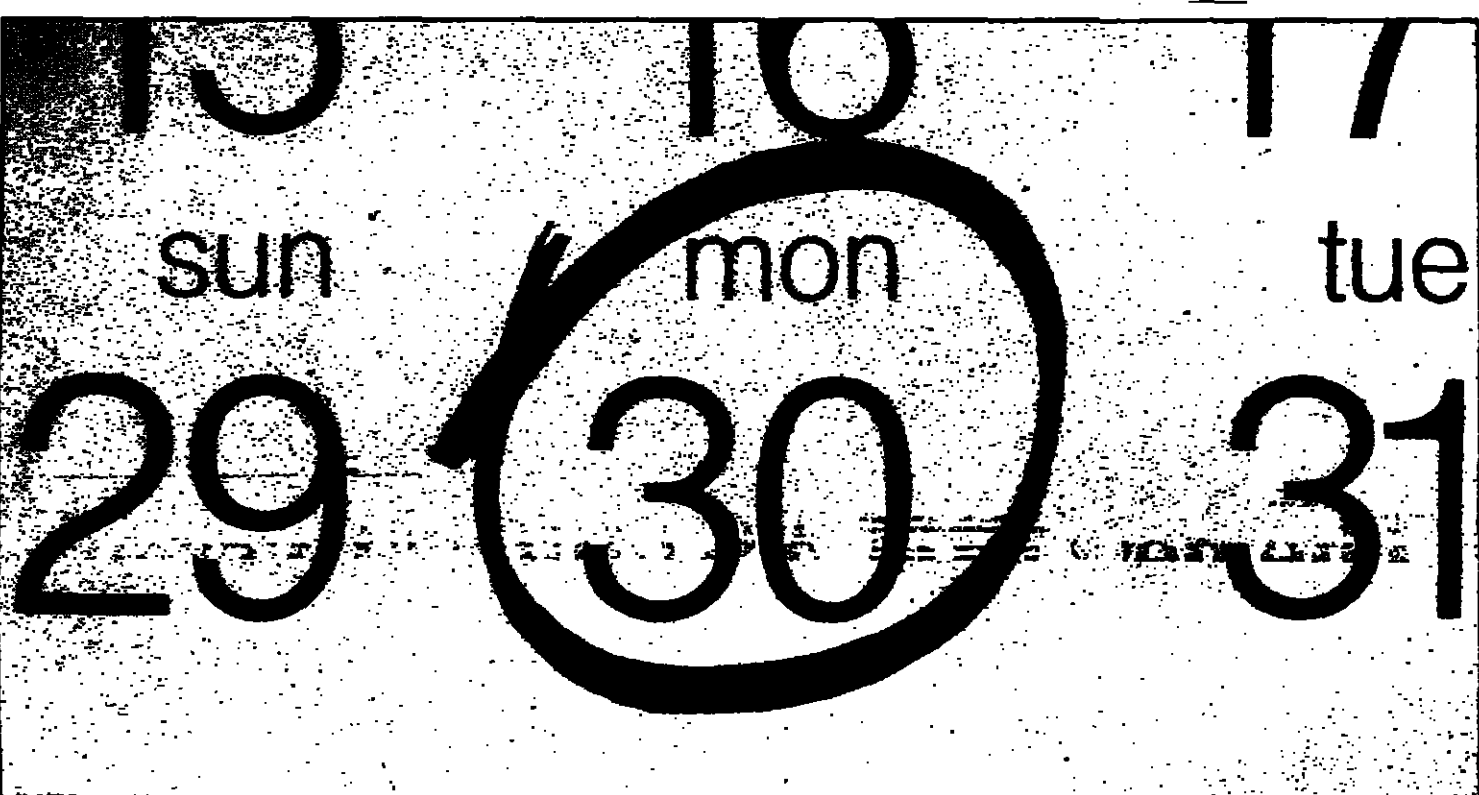
### Coverage

In Abu Dhabi, a PLO leader today criticised Arab reporting of the Palestinian uprising in Israeli-occupied territories as inferior to coverage by the Western media.

"What we see and hear in the Western media is much more than Arab reporting," Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen), a member of the PLO's executive committee, told reporters.

At the United Nations, Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar expressed concern yesterday over tougher measures adopted by Israel against the uprising in recent weeks, citing a high number of Palestinians shot dead by Israeli forces.

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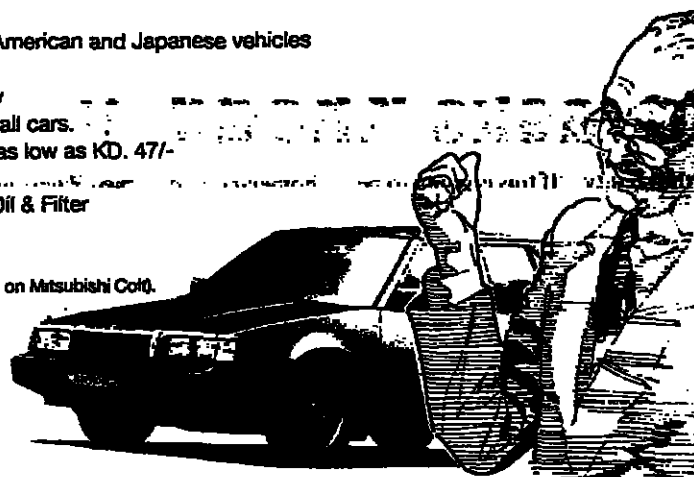
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## Worst day of pre-poll violence

# 50 die in Sri Lanka unrest

COLOMBO, Jan 27, (Reuters): Sri Lankan police said about 50 people died on Wednesday in the worst day of violence so far in the campaign for parliamentary elections next month and military sources said troops would help protect candidates.

The dead included an election candidate and five members of his family.

Supporters of the ruling United National Party and the opposition United Socialist Alliance, as well as a left-wing rebel and a government officer also died, a senior police officer said.

"It was the worst day of violence for political parties contesting the February 15 poll," he said.

In most of the recent killings, victims were dragged from their homes and shot in the street.

"Some have been killed while watching television," the officer said.

Police blamed the attacks on the left-wing People's Liberation Front, a mainly Sinhalese group based in the south.

Unidentified gunmen burst into the central province home of alliance candidate Nissanka Karunatilake, killing him and five members of his family on Wednesday, they said.

Political analysts say rival political groups could also be responsible for the attacks.

Troops confined to barracks for a fortnight joined police today to hunt down left-wing rebels blamed for killing more than 200 people in bloody prelude to next month's parliamentary election.

"Security forces are conducting joint patrols and searches with the police under the Public Security Act," said a senior military officer at Matara, near the southernmost tip of the

Indian Ocean island.

Gunmen have struck at politicians and activists from both the ruling United National Party and the opposition left-wing Sri Lanka Freedom Party, though five of the eight election candidates slain since Jan 10 were from the Freedom Party.

Police blame the JVP for disrupting last month's presidential election and say the front, composed almost exclusively of young Sinhalese from the south, aims to oust the government through a campaign of killings and disruption.

Political analysts caution that some attacks could have been instigated by political rivals.

The military officer in Matara said most attacks involved rebels released from detention after newly-elected President Ranasinghe Premadasa lifted the emergency in force since May 1983 and ordered security forces back to camp on Jan 11.

## 14 national and 8 provincial seats at stake

# Benazir faces popularity test

ISLAMABAD, Jan 27, (AP): Pakistan completes a two-month election process tomorrow, when it chooses 22 national and provincial lawmakers. The outcome is unlikely to tip power away from Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, but it could provide her parliamentary opposition with a recognised leader.

At stake are 14 seats in the 237-seat National Assembly, or lower house of parliament, and eight seats in three of the country's four provincial legislatures.

The polls are being held in districts where candidates in last November's general elections won more than one seat, or where the vote was postponed because a candidate died.

The main contestants are fielded by Benazir's Pakistan Peoples Party, and her conservative rivals, the nine-party Islamic Democratic Alliance.

Benazir's party emerged the largest in National Assembly polls last Nov 16, the country's

first free election in over a decade. She clinched the post of prime minister with the support of independent members and smaller parties.

**Provinces**

Her PPP also rules the provinces of Sind and North West Frontier with the help of other smaller groups.

But the IDA, her principal opposition in the National Assembly, rules Punjab which is the country's most populous.

The country's smallest province of Baluchistan emerged fragmented, but no legislative seats are at stake there.

Her efforts to defeat Nawaz Sharif, IDA leader and chief minister of Punjab, have failed. Punjab is an important power base because it produces most of the armed forces and is the nation's richest province.

Sharif and IDA have been campaigning with provincialism slogan of "Save Punjab" from Benazir and from domination of

her native, southern Sind province.

Benazir's campaign has been geared toward defeating Sharif and quashing Punjab provincialism. She has also asked election rallies to defeat "Zia remnants," a reference to supporters of Gen. Zia-ul-Haq, who died in a plane crash last August.

"We will win by-elections and ultimately control (the) National Assembly, and remove Benazir," Sharif boasted at an election rally recently in the Punjab capital of Lahore.

**Projection**

The election outcome is difficult to predict in a nation of emotional voters.

Of Pakistan's 107 million people, 48 million can vote nationwide. However, only three million are entitled to participate in Saturday's polls. Voter turnout last November was just under 50 per cent.

Newspaper surveys project

two-thirds of the National Assembly seats will go to Benazir and her allies, and the rest to IDA. The PPP also appears likely to make a good showing in provincial contests.

The centrepiece of the opposition election is Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, the IDA chairman, who is running for the National Assembly from Punjab's rural Kot Addu district.

Jatoi is a rich landowner but he failed in November to win either a national or a provincial seat from his own home district in Sind.

If he wins this time, he appears certain to lead the IDA opposition in the federal legislature although his forces will remain outnumbered two-to-one by Benazir and her backers.

Ironically, Jatoi in the 1970s was federal minister for communications and establishment under the late Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, Benazir's father.



Benazir: polls  
Sharif: provincialism

## Sikhs kill 4, blow up rail track

CHANDIGARH, Jan 27, (Reuters): Sikh extremists killed four people in Punjab and blew up a railway line in an unsuccessful attempt to derail a passenger train, police said yesterday.

The police said extremists shot dead three people in the Tamsa area of Hoshiarpur district on Wednesday night, and a Sikh temple committee chief near the Sikh holy city of Amritsar on Thursday morning.

Others blew up the line near Khana station in an attempt to derail a passenger train from Delhi to Amritsar near the Pakistan border, they said.

The driver of an earlier train spotted the damaged track and stopped the second train from going off the tracks, they added.

It was the fourth attack on heavily-crowded passenger trains in Punjab in the past two weeks, police said.

The extremists, fighting for an independent Sikh nation in Punjab, have killed at least 164 people in the state this month.

## Iran to punish jailed Briton

NICOSIA, Jan 27, (Reuters): Iran will punish jailed British businessman Roger Cooper according to Islamic law, Interior Minister Ali Akbar Mohtashemi was quoted as saying yesterday.

"Britain's request that its spy should not be tried stems from its arrogant nature," Mohtashemi told the Iranian news agency IRNA.

He said Cooper, held by Iran since 1986 on espionage charges, "had made no confession and would be punished according to Islamic law," the agency, monitored in Nicosia, reported.

Iran last month freed another Briton, Nicholas Nicolson, 23, who spent two years in detention for entering Iran illegally and posing as a British spy.

Britain had hoped that improved relations between Tehran and London, highlighted by November's resumption of diplomatic relations, would lead to Cooper's release.

But Mohtashemi told IRNA that Iran did not fully trust the British.

## 'Showing breasts artistic'

VENICE, Jan 27, (Reuters): Italy's porn-star politician Emma Staller was given a suspended five-month jail sentence for evoking nude-naked on the bronze statue of a horse in St Mark's Square in Venice.

Police had to restrain hundreds of spectators when Staller better known by her stage name "Ciccolina" (little fleshy one), appeared in the Lagoon city bare-breasted and wearing a see-through skirt in Sept 1987.

Staller, elected to the chamber of deputies for the small radical party in June 1987, was convicted of obscene acts in a public place.

She was led from the court at the end of the hearing after trying to read out part of a speech she made to parliament on Tuesday urging more liberal pornography laws.

Staller, 37, has based her breasts in many countries in pursuit of her campaign against censorship. She has been arrested in Brussels, banned in Israel and shunned by Spain's parliament.

She told reporters the exhibition had been artistic and described the verdict as absurd. It was not clear whether she would appeal but a statement said she was planning a mock burning at the stake in St Mark's Square in protest.

## Release of Beirut hostages likely

BEIRUT, Jan 27, (UPI): Western diplomats were preparing for the possible release of a British and Irish hostage held in Lebanon for more than two years by suspected Iranian-backed militants, a Syrian source said.

Irish Ambassador Declan Connelly met Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa in Damascus last night and asked him to secure the two hostages' safe passage to Syria should they be freed, the source said.

The meeting in the Syrian capital was sparked by an unconfirmed report yesterday in the London-based Lebanese newspaper Al Hayat that freedom for the hostages was imminent.

One of the captives, Brian Keenan, 36, a native of Belfast, has dual English-Irish citizenship. Keenan was an English teacher at the American University of Beirut when he disappeared in West Beirut April 11, 1986.

No group claimed responsibility for his kidnapping, but he is reported to be among 15 foreigners, including nine Americans and three Britons, held hostage in Lebanon by suspected Iranian-backed Shiite Muslim extremists.

John McCarthy, 31, a British journalist with Worldwide Television Network who was seized April 17, 1986, was reported to be the second hostage expected to be freed. A group called Hital Iba Al Qadafi claimed responsibility for his abduction.

**Rumours**

A foreign office spokesman in London said the British Ambassador to Lebanon, Allan Ramsay, was investigating the rumours.

The spokesman said the rumours concerned Keenan primarily, but there was an assumption of linkage between Keenan and McCarthy.

Ramsay told reporters in Beirut he could not confirm or deny the report, but he left the embassy in East Beirut and crossed into the Western sector, where he was keeping a vigil, diplomats said.

## US-Turkish group hit by leftists

ISTANBUL, Jan 27, (Reuters): Bomb blasts hit a US-Turkish business group and two other offices today in apparently coordinated leftist guerrilla attacks in Ankara and Istanbul.

Witnesses said three separate groups of armed men and women tied up office workers and locked them up in nearby rooms, but nobody was hurt by the dynamite blasts.

The gunmen sprayed slogans on walls of the Istanbul offices in red paint like "Damn price hikes, oppression and the torture regime" and signed them Dev Sol (revolutionary left).

Dev Sol, banned for political violence in the 1970s, has mounted a number of attacks on employers, banks and other offices in Istanbul in the past 12 months.

The attacks all occurred about 9 am (0700 GMT) and hit the Turkish-American Businessmen's Association (TABA) and the Economic Development Foundation in Istanbul.

In Ankara, the branch office of the Metal Employer's Union was hit.

Five armed militants attacked the TABA office, tying up the office cleaner, ransacking the office and leaving a bomb to explode after they left.

"They put the bomb under the meeting table and wrecked the tables and chairs. I don't know why they chose us," TABA president Erdal Karatepe told Reuters.

The two other attacks followed a similar pattern with dynamite causing extensive damage to the union office in a nine-storey business and trade centre in central Ankara.

Ankara Governor Saffet Arkan Beduk said he did not know who was responsible for the Ankara blast but did not rule out a link with the banned Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK).

Three people were also injured in the southeast town of Sirt by an explosion in a shop today.

Officials said first indications were that an artillery shell had exploded.

Since 1984 over 1,200 people have been killed, mostly in south-east Turkey, in a struggle between security forces and the PKK, which seeks autonomy for Turkey's eight million Kurds.

## Inspect all chemical plants in the world, asks Khaddafi

WASHINGTON, Jan 27, (UPI): Muammar Khaddafi, in a wide-ranging interview with ABC News, denied Libya has developed a chemical weapons plant and hedged on Israel's right to exist.

The Libyan leader, branded a madman by the Reagan administration, also said that "it irritates me" to be called insane by the American news media.

Asked during the interview in Tripoli, Libya, if he would permit "neutral observers" to inspect the plant, which the Reagan and Bush administrations have said is capable of making poison gas, Khaddafi said, "yes we can do that, simply because this is a medicine plant."

But the Libyan leader ruled out continuous monitoring of the facility. "If this is going to be the case, we ought to nominate an international observing commission to inspect all factories and plants in the world continuously periodically," he said through an interpreter.

**Capability**

Asked if he believed that if Israel allowed a Palestinian homeland in the Jewish state, should then have the right to exist, Khaddafi gave a rambling answer that left his position unclear.

"Yes, when all the Palestinians who are living outside Palestine right now and when all inhabitants of the Gaza Strip and Western Bank are returned to their respective properties and

## Bush to visit China

WASHINGTON, Jan 27, (Reuters): President Bush will make a two-day stopover in China after his trip to Japan next month for Emperor Hirohito's funeral and White House sources said a presidential visit to South Korea was also likely.

In announcing the new US leader would visit Beijing for talks with Chinese leaders on Feb 25 and 26, White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater told reporters last night: "It (Bush's trip) is clearly in an expanding mode."

Asked if Bush would stop in South Korea on his way to or from Hirohito's funeral on Feb 24, another White House official said "it's possible."

Meanwhile Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze will meet China's senior leader Deng Xiaoping in Shanghai next week to pave the way for the first Sino-Soviet summit in 30 years.

Shevardnadze will be the first Soviet Foreign Minister to visit China since late 1959, shortly before relations between the two communist powers collapsed over ideological and foreign policy issues.

## DMK takes power in Tamil Nadu

MADRAS, Jan 27, (UPI): Muthuvel Karunanidhi, a charismatic movie scriptwriter who led his DMK party to a landslide victory over Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) Party in Tamil Nadu assembly polls, today took power as the state's new chief minister.

In a colourful ceremony at the domed Valluvar Kottam building in the capital of Madras, Karunanidhi took the oath of office from Governor P.C. Alexander, the central government's chief representative to the state.

Karunanidhi pledged to work to work hard to resolve the problems of India's southernmost state of 55 million people.

The Governor also administered the oath of office and secrecy to 16 legislators of Karunanidhi's Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) party selected as members of his cabinet.

Voters in the Jan 21 assembly polls gave the DMK a commanding majority of 146 seats in the 234-member assembly. Its allies won another 23 places, giving the alliance of more than two-thirds majority.

Rajiv's party came a poor third with 25 constituencies in a

## US, North Korea held talks in Beijing

BEIJING, Jan 27, (AP): US and North Korean diplomats held closed-door talks recently in Beijing in a rare direct contact, the North Korean ambassador said at a news conference last night.

But Ambassador Sin In Ha said the talks "were not anything to shout about."

"It was very simple," he said. "Living together on the same planet, it is impossible not to have contact... We always keep the door open for talks, but the United States closes the door."

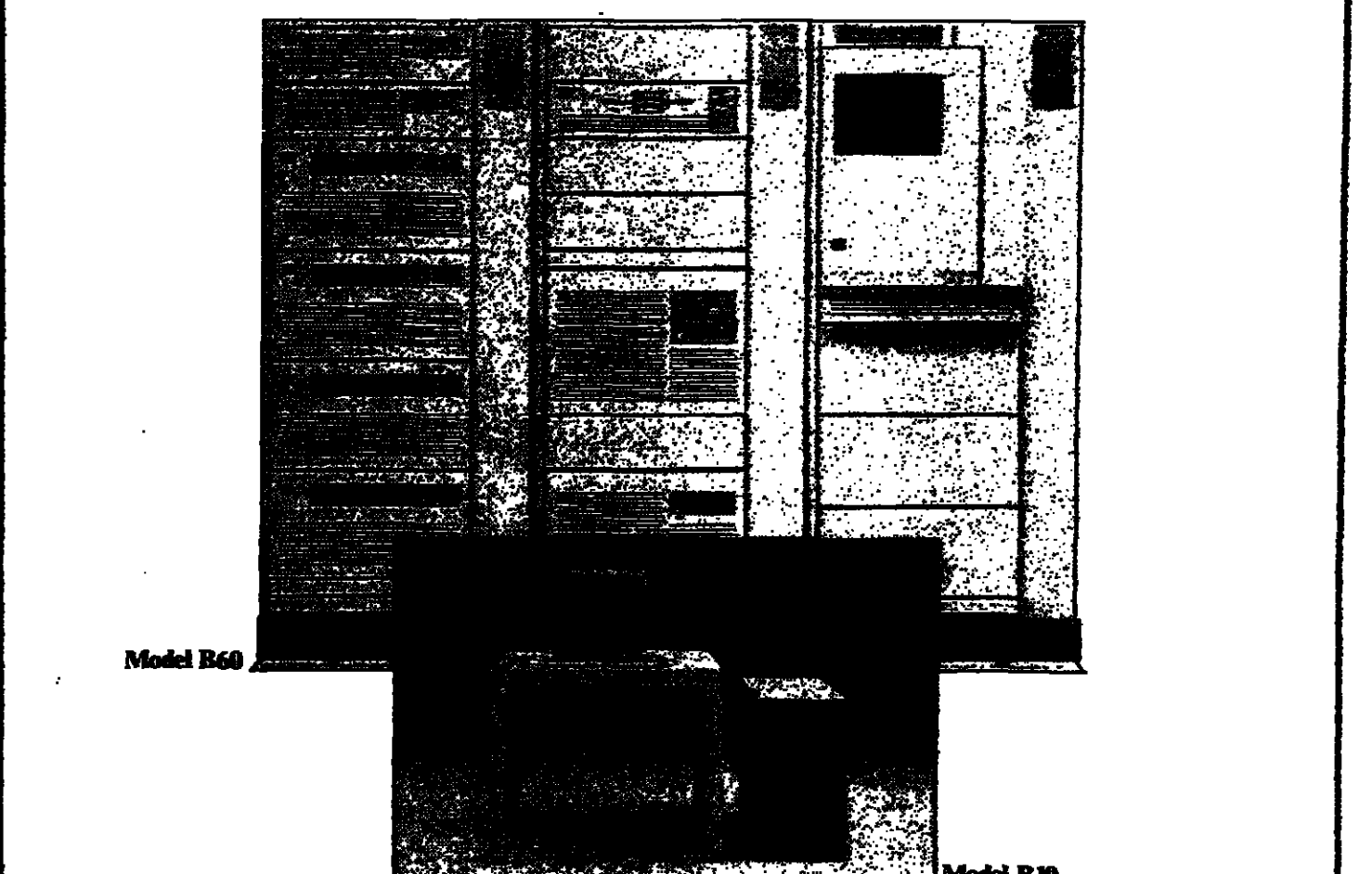
Sin refused to give details of the talks and the US Embassy in Beijing refused to comment. Two meetings reportedly were arranged in December and January with the aid of the Chinese, who are close allies of North Korea.

The talks appeared part of a slight warming trend on the Korean peninsula, which has been divided since the 1950-53 Korean war into the communist North and US-allied South. South Korea recently said it was considering allowing its citizens to visit the North to see relatives, conduct trade or hold other neutral exchanges.

In a similar development a senior Vietnamese diplomat held discussions with US officials in Washington as part of what is believed to be the first visit ever by a Hanoi representative to Washington.

The occasion for the visit by Trinh Xuan Lang, Vietnam's Ambassador to the United Nations, was a reception last night sponsored by a non-profit group, Sight Savers International, which seeks to train foreign doctors in eye surgery techniques.

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**Dr Anwar Basith**  
on the demise of her brother

May his soul rest in peace.



## KAC signs pact for global trips at reduced rates

KUWAIT, Jan 27. (KUNA): Kuwait Airways Corporation (KAC) signed an agreement here Thursday with Cathay Pacific and Piedmont on reducing ticket fares for trips around the world, effective Jan 1989.

Sheikh Talal Mubarak, Director of the Commercial Department at KAC informed KUNA that according to the agreement, First Class tickets will cost KD1,112,000, Business Class KD842,000 and Economy Class KD522,700.

Ticket fares are applicable to the three airlines only and are valid for 100 days. The traveller can stop at places during the trip as he pleases but, minimum stopovers should not be less than three. The ticket has to be purchased two weeks prior to departure, the official said.

He added that KAC had signed a similar agreement with American North West Company.

Meanwhile, Ahmad Hamad Al Mishari, the board chairman for KAC said that a number of Islamic funds and financial firms have expressed an interest in a project which calls for the establishment of an Arab company to purchase, rent and supply aeroplanes. A number of Arab airline companies and banks are undertaking a feasibility study, he said.

Project  
He added that Kuwait will host the final meeting of Arab airlines and banks participating in the project in March. He stressed that having an Arab company supplying the aeroplanes will open new horizons from most Islamic funds and financial institutions.

The number of rented aeroplanes in 1981 totalled 350 — almost 6 per cent of world's aircraft. This percentage has increased to 13 — 900 to 1,000 aeroplanes. The year 1991 will witness an increase of rented aircraft amounting to 1,750 or 19 per cent of world aircraft, the official said.

## First phase of telecommunication tower completed

KUWAIT, Jan 27. (KUNA): The first phase of a \$90 million telecommunication tower has been completed and the second and last phase will be completed by the end of March, Kuwait Minister of Public Works Abdul Rahman Al Houti has said.

Following an on site inspection of the downtown facility Thursday the minister told KUNA the 375 metre high tower is one of the world's unique towers and that it will be used not only by the Ministry of Communication but also by the Ministries of Interior and Information.

A revolving restaurant is being built on the tower at an altitude of 170 metres, Al Houti said. The minister referred to some difficulties facing the construction of this tower attributing them to the very nature of the project and the technicalities involved.

Asked about his reaction to the completion of the tower's first phase, Houti expressed satisfaction indicating that an accurate judgement on the work could not be passed unless and until the project was finalised.

The minister called for more co-operation between the parties executing the project, the Ministry of Public Works and the contractor and the consultant engineering bureau "in order to overcome all difficulties."

## Labour market stability prime concern: Shabnan

By Hussein Salameh

THE Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour is keen to ensure freedom of work in the Kuwaiti labour market, according to a senior government official.

Mohammad Al Shabnan, the Assistant Undersecretary at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour said that this freedom will not be at the cost of stability in the market. Instability, he said, retards good productivity and serves neither the employer nor the employees.

### New permits

To demonstrate the ministry's value for freedom, last year about 53,000 residences in the private sector were transferred. Moreover, over 4,600 workers — mostly people who do small handicraft jobs sponsor themselves. The residency departments in the four governorates completed over 400,000 transactions last year, Shabnan said.

In the past four years beginning 1985, the largest number of expatriate workers entered Kuwait in 1988. Last year, about 90,000 new work permits were

issued and over 62,000 workers entered the country. Those who did not enter, are expected to arrive later as the validity of the permits has not expired yet, the official said.

He added that during the last four years, 195,000 new workers entered Kuwait out of a total of 257,000 work permits issued. A total of 131,000 expatriate workers left the country permanently during the same period. Additionally, 81,000 residences were transferred to the private sector from other sectors.

### Increase

Shabnan said that there has been a gradual increase since 1985. During the year 1985, '86, '87 and '88, 41,600, 42,200, 49,000 and 62,000 workers respectively entered Kuwait. Work permits for over 148,000 workers during 1988, 153,000 renewals in 1987, 139,000 in 1986 and 142,600 renewals in 1985.

On workers disputes in the private sector, 6,672 were recorded — 1,565 were solved cordially, 2,480 referred to the courts, while the rest are still being investigated, the officials said.

## KD1 charge proposed for garbage collection

THE Kuwait Municipal Affairs Committee has referred a proposal to impose charges on the public for collecting garbage, to the Legal and Financial Committee of Kuwait Municipality.

The Financial Committee will study the proposal. In its first session, the Municipal Affairs Committee, running the affairs of Kuwait Municipality, had

issued a decision to collect KD1 monthly from each house for collecting garbage. It was also decided that the people will pay KD1 along with their electricity bills, but this decision was never implemented.

Meanwhile, the Municipal Affairs Committee also approved a proposal to develop a vacant lot behind the British embassy into a car park.

## New maternity clinic at Adan Hospital soon

THE Director of Al Adan Health Area Dr Abdullah Al Hamad was quoted as saying that a maternity clinic is to be established at Al Adan Hospital soon.

In an interview with a local daily, Hamad said that the clinic will have 90 beds. Hamad acknowledged that there was medicine shortage at the health centres in Al Adan area, but he said that the Adan Hospital suffers no shortage, adding further that the Ministry of Health will cover the medicine shortage soon.

Hamad said that the hospital suffered a shortage of technicians, although laboratories are very well equipped. He further said that the hospital suffers a paucity of nurses particularly Kuwaiti ones, and said that the Ministry of Health will bring nurses from Egypt and other countries.

He said that the Health Ministry was not planning to establish a new hospital in the area, and added that Adan Hospital sufficiently rendered the necessary medical service to the entire area.

## Five years for moral assault

THE Assize Court sentenced a man to five years imprisonment for morally assaulting a 17 year old girl with her consent.

The girl who is a student at a secondary school previously knew the man through the help of her girl friend. She went out with him many times before the incident and often called him at his house and work.

On the night of the incident she invited him inside her house without the knowledge of her parents, but the father came home shortly from shopping and found the man inside the girl's bedroom. The man was arrested and taken to the police station.

## Bids for south Shuwaikh public park to be invited

THE Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources (AAFFRA) will invite bids by tender to transform south Shuwaikh area into a public park during the first half of this year, according to a senior official at the authority.

Sheikh Ibrahim Al Duaij, the Chairman and Director-General of the Public Authority for Agriculture and Fish Wealth said that the park will be constructed on the same site as Celebrations Square in the south of Shuwaikh. The project is considered an addition to the present afforestation plans of the authority.

The authority is going to develop afforestation projects by developing about three thousand hectares of land during this year, the official said. He added that the authority had asked authorities to issue legislation to protect plants and trees. The Council of Ministers has positively responded to the demand. Accordingly, shepherds who leave their sheep to graze in prohibited areas will face



Indian Ambassador N.N. Jha and Mrs. Jha greet US Ambassador W. Nathaniel Howell at a reception to celebrate India's 40th Republic Day, Thursday. A flag-hoisting ceremony was also held the same morning at the Indian embassy premises. Photo by Javed Basra

## Gabid commends Amir's efforts as OIC chairman

KUWAIT, Jan 27. (KUNA): Secretary-General of the Organisation of Islamic Conference Dr Hamid Al Gabid commended the efforts of HH the Amir in his capacity as chairman of OIC's fifth session.

Kuwait's chairmanship of the OIC was of great benefit to the Islamic organisation due to its political and diplomatic weight at the international level, Gabid said in an interview with a local magazine.

Gabid, said his recent visit to Kuwait was aimed at consulting with the Amir and listening to his instructions over all Islamic issues.

During the meeting with the Amir, Gabid said he had submitted a detailed report on the situation in the OIC as well as its various problems, particularly the financial crisis.

The Secretary-General said the Amir had assured him that

Kuwait, in co-operation with OIC member states, will try to work out the organisation's financial and administrative problems to guarantee success of the various OIC activities.

Regarding OIC Foreign Ministers Meeting, scheduled for Riyadh on March 13, he said the conferees will discuss inter-OIC technological, trade and cultural co-operation, the Middle East crisis, and the Afghan problem.

Gabid, in statements published by the Arabic-language 'Al Hawadith' in London, called for aborting Zionist attempts to infiltrate into the African continent, noting Islamic action in Africa should be given priority and greater attention.

The Lebanese themselves are the ones who can solve their problems, said Gabid who urged the Lebanese to unify ranks and maintain their constitutional institutions.

## Civil Defence to combat disasters, says official

SPEAKING to the first batch of Civil Defence volunteers, Col Khalid Al Quod, the Director of Civil Defence confirmed the importance of establishing a Civil Defence system based on human and economic potentials.

The state had enacted the necessary legislation to create an integrated civil defence strategy, the official said.

He added that an emergency committee comprising a number of ministers had been formed, in addition to a relief committee chaired by the minister of public health and a relief and rescue committee under the chairmanship of the cabinet secretary general Abdulaziz Al Otaibi.

Elucidating Quod said that the Kuwait Civil Defence law had been enacted in 1979 and had been designed to combat disasters. The implementation of the law is to be undertaken by the Ministry of Interior in co-operation with other authorities concerned.

His department had co-ordinated its efforts with the state ministries and the private sector to counter natural disasters and sabotage within the framework of an integrated security plan, the official said.

## Diplomats' picnic in Wafra

KUWAIT, Jan 27. (KUNA): The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in collaboration with Ahmadi Governorate today organised a picnic for diplomats and their families.

The participants, including some employees from the ministry spent the day at a well-equipped camp in Wafra area watching folkloric troupes and a camel race.

Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Sulaiman Majid Al Shahin said the unofficial gathering was meant to acquaint diplomats residing in Kuwait with some aspects of living in the country.

Director of Protocol Department Ahmed Abdul Wahed Al Ayoub said over 450 diplomats together with their families had taken part in the picnic.

## Qatar to sign NPT

NICOSIA, Jan 27. (Reuters): Qatar has announced that it would sign the nuclear non-proliferation treaty.

"The Qatari cabinet agreed at its meeting to join the United Nations Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)," the official Qatar News Agency said.

## Amiri amnesty to free 400 prisoners

By Salem Al Wawan

THE Amiri amnesty for prisoners on the occasion of the National Day will include 400 prisoners instead of the 250 reported earlier, according to an official source at the Ministry of the Interior.

All prisoners to be pardoned have served at least half of their jail terms and demonstrated good conduct. Prisoners are Kuwaitis and expatriates and include both males and females.

Those to be released include 250 convicted of misdemeanours, 70 convicted of criminal cases and the remaining 80 traffic offenders.

The prisoners are expected to be released on Feb 22 — just three days before the National Day, the official said.

## Oil rig sinks off Abu Dhabi

ABU DHABI, Jan 27. (AP): An offshore oil drilling rig sank Wednesday in stormy Gulf waters off Abu Dhabi's Abu Al Bakoosh, shipping sources reported.

The sources who spoke on condition they not be named gave the name of the rig as Jaks 1, but they had no further details on its size or capacity.

They said that there were no casualties as the jack-up rig, collapsed slowly, giving time for the workers to be evacuated.

The field is owned by Abu Dhabi and is operated by the Abu Dhabi National Oil Co. in conjunction with the French oil company Total.

Abu Al Bakoosh has a production capacity of 50-60,000 barrels per day. It is about 120 miles (192 kms) to the north of Abu Dhabi near the Gulf demarcation line with Iran.

## Bahrain launches campaign to combat AIDS

BAHRAIN has launched a major campaign to combat AIDS and prevent the infection by the dreaded disease of its people by introducing a number of measures.

AIDS — the number one killer disease in the world — has been accorded top priority by countries worldwide in response to appeal by WHO.

Bahrain has joined the international community to take strict preventive measures to fight AIDS. The island nation with a small population has the advantage of conducting public health education on AIDS on a wider scale and in less time than some of its more populous Arab and international neighbours.

In an exclusive interview with the Arab Times, Dr Roshid Fuley, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health, said that Bahrain was one of the first countries in the world to become aware of AIDS and its dangers. The country was represented at four international conferences on AIDS since 1983. It attended a number of presentations made on the subject, including one entitled "State of Arts and AIDS" by Dr Baker from Qatar.

### Evaluation

Toward the end of 1984, a committee called AIDS Preventive Committee (APC) was formed in Bahrain.

"The committee was formed to evaluate the best way of tackling the problem of AIDS by implementing a well defined strategy," said Dr Fuley. He stressed that the most important decision taken was to control blood transfusion in Bahrain by conducting blood tests on all donors.

"Since 1985 it has been absolutely imperative that no blood transfusion takes place until proven negative on AIDS," added Dr Fuley.

"There is absolutely no danger and no need for concern about AIDS in Bahrain. We are practically safe from any infection," he stated. He said as part of the campaign to fight AIDS in the island, efforts have been made to conduct extensive public health education programme by direct talks on the subject in school, clubs and associations throughout the country. Pamphlets are regularly distributed to educate the public on the danger of AIDS. A pamphlet has also been introduced, especially for doctors and other medical personnel, explaining AIDS as a communicable disease, its symptoms and a diagnostic formula.

### Attention

A card has been produced on AIDS which is offered to the passport of every traveller leaving Bahrain, according to Dr Fuley.

The Undersecretary assured that AIDS risk groups have been given particularly attention in view of the disease. The groups, which include people afflicted with sexual diseases, pregnant women and drug addicts, are tested at all times.

Asked about the isolation of AIDS carriers in Bahrain from society to protect the rest of the people, Dr Fuley said it was highly impractical and expensive.

"First of all we have no moral right to do this. You cannot separate a person from his family. Then we have the cost of blood tests, which is astronomical. You simply can't carry out a blood test on the entire population."

In Bahrain at present there are 15 AIDS carriers — all confined to risk groups.

## Medical exhibition to be held November 26

THE Minister of Public Health Dr Abdul Razzak Yusuf Al Abdul Razzak will patronise Kuwait's 3rd Medical Exhibition scheduled to take place at International Fair Ground in Mishref from Nov 26 to 29, the Director of Public Relations Department at Kuwait's Ministry of Public Health Saleh Al Harbi is quoted as saying.

In an interview with a local daily, Harbi said that the exhibition will be attended by international companies specialised

in the production of medical equipment.

He added that the exhibition was aimed at making specialists and researchers to familiarise themselves with latest development in the field of medical supplies.

He disclosed that the exhibition will contain several types of narcotic, dental, laboratory, X-ray, orthopaedic, cardio-vascular, ocular, veterinary and respiratory equipment.

## Admiral who led Vincennes probe to command US Gulf force

MANAMA, Jan 27. (AP): The admiral who led the official investigation into last year's shootdown of an Iranian jetliner by a US Navy cruiser has been chosen as the next commander of the American naval force in the Gulf.

Pentagon officials said Rear Adm. William M. Fogarty would probably assume command of the Joint Task Force Middle East in March.

He will replace Rear Adm. Anthony A. Less. The force includes 24 warships, 14 in the Gulf and a 10-ship aircraft carrier battle group in the Arabian Sea.

Familiarisation  
The appointment is the second top-level command shuttle in recent months.

In late November, Army Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf succeeded retiring Marine Gen. George B. Crist at US Central Command in Tampa, Fla.

Central Command is the administrative headquarters for US military affairs in 19 countries of the Middle East, including the Gulf region.

Schwarzkopf is currently on a familiarisation tour of the region. He conferred last week with senior Bahrain government officials and was to meet with the Amir, Sheikh Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifa.

Fogarty, 51, a surface warfare officer, is director of plans and policy at Central Command.

He headed the team of experts that probed the shooting down of an Iran Air A300 Airbus last July 3 by the Aegis-type missile cruiser USS Vincennes in the Strait of Hormuz.

All 290 people aboard were killed when the warship destroyed the jetliner in the mistaken belief it was an Iranian F-14 jet fighter joining in a skirmish between the Vincennes and some Iranian gunboats.

Fogarty's inquiry found the stress of first-time combat caused some Vincennes officers and men to misinterpret radar data on the plane, which had just taken off on a scheduled flight from Bandar Abbas to Dubai, across the Gulf.

Less, a Vietnam combat pilot and one-time leader of the Navy's "Blue Angels" jet acrobatics team, has headed the JTFME and its Gulf-based unit, the Middle East Force, for the past year.

Officials said he would join the plans, policy and operations staff of the chief of naval operations.

The Gulf-based force was recently cut from 15 to 14 ships in a move that US officials said reflected a continued lowering of tension since Iraq and Iran agreed last August to a ceasefire in the eight-year-old Gulf war.

Protection  
The United States has maintained a permanent naval force in the Gulf since 1949, but it was expanded in 1987 to protect US-flag shipping from escalating warfare in the waterway.

In other moves to scale back operations following the truce, Navy ships now only "monitor" US-flag vessels from a distance, and six of 11 Kuwaiti tankers that have sailed under the Stars and Stripes since mid-1987 will soon revert to Kuwaiti registry.

## Iraq develops other ports as Basra stays cut off

KUWAIT, Jan 27. (Reuters): The war-battered city of Basra, legendary home of Sinbad the sailor, remains hostage to peace talks with Iran while Iraq develops other ports that will enhance its trade routes to the Gulf.

Baghdad said earlier this month that Basra had re-opened, but shipping executives said on Thursday the city of a million palm trees was still isolated from the Gulf by a combination of mines, silt and sunken ships. They said Iraq might have been referring to ports in the Basra region.

"The Iraqis can forget about Basra (as a port) for the time being," said a shipping executive. The shipping executives said Baghdad was developing alternatives to Basra while peace talks with Iran remained deadlocked over the disputed and blocked

Shatt Al Arab waterway linking what was Iraq's main port to the sea.

Iraqi authorities have told at least one Gulf-based shipping agent that dredging of the channels to the ports of Umm Qasr and Zubair on the narrow Khor Abdullah channel in the north-east corner of the Gulf would enable most cargo ships to use the ports by June.

Clearance  
A billion-dollar development scheme is underway including warehousing, rail yards and berth construction at Umm Qasr and a ship repair dock at Zubair.

By the early 1990s, the two ports could together rival the handling capacity and efficiency of Basra before the war and take much of the Iraq-bound cargo now trucked from Jordan's Red

Sea port of Aqaba, the sources said.

Clearance of the Shatt Al Arab would take several years, and work cannot begin until Iran and Iraq at least put aside a sovereignty row over the river.

Iraq wants the Shatt cleared immediately but Iran will consent only on the basis of their 1975 Algiers agreement that drew the international border down the middle. Iraq tore up the pact just before the start of the eight-year Gulf war and now claims complete control.

The sources said silt carried downstream by the Tigris and Euphrates rivers had reduced the depth of some channels in the waterway to 3.5 metres (11 feet).

"There are islands in the Shatt that weren't there before the war," said one shipping executive. More than 70 ships are

trapped in the waterway, many of them sunken, and the riverbed is believed thick with mines.

Basra is linked to Zubair and the Khor Abdullah by the narrow Shatt Basra canal. But the sources said it was not in use and Iraq had no immediate plans to widen and deepen it for commercial ships although this remained a long-term option.

Sheltered from the intense shelling that hit Basra 30 miles (50 kms) to the north, Zubair and Umm Qasr have relatively modern facilities and good road access to northern Iraq. Fifteen ships trapped in the Khor Abdullah by the war have been removed.

Umm Qasr now has eight operational berths and ten more are due to open by June equipped with two container cranes, the sources said.

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Announces the following:

- 1) Re-enrollment for returning students will take place between January 7th and February 8th, 1989.
- 2) Brothers and sisters of returning students who would like to join the school next year are requested to apply between January 7th and February 1st, 1989, as they have priority over new students.
- 3) New student applications will be accepted starting Sunday, January 15th, 1989, at 9:00 a.m.

NOTE: The school may be unable to secure places for its students and their brothers and sisters who do not enroll before February 1, 1989.

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**SUNDAY**  
6.00 Holy Quran  
6.10 Dennis the Menace: cartoon serial  
6.30 The Owl: a documentary for young viewers.  
7.00 Scientific Eye: "Gravity." Tonight's episode examines the concept of gravity.  
7.30 The Pursuit of Happiness. Dave learns that lending your car is not always the kindest thing to do.  
8.00 News in English  
8.40 Call Me Mister: Jack Bartholomew investigates the death of an unidentified man.  
9.40 Dive to Adventure: examines the wealth of life at sea.  
10.00 What's Happening Now: Roger decides to stage one of his plays. But things don't turn out as planned.  
10.30 Best-Seller: "The Lancaster and Miller Affair."  
11.30 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Holy Quran/Closedown

**MONDAY**  
6.00 Holy Quran  
6.10 Blois Six: cartoon serial.  
6.30 Chocky's Children: based on characters created by John Wyndham. Albertine has been kidnapped; and everyone looks for Chocky, who is also missing.  
7.00 Roving Report: weekly roundup of world news and views.  
7.30 Perspective: Nature  
8.00 News in English  
8.40 A Different World: "War of the ..."  
9.30 Rediscovery of the World: "The Legacy of Cortez."  
10.00 Alfred Hitchcock Presents: "Kandinsky Vault."  
10.30 French Feature Film  
11.30 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Holy Quran/Closedown

**TUESDAY**  
6.00 Holy Quran  
6.10 Noveltoons: cartoon serial.  
6.30 Fire Raiser: the children regroup to catch the fire raiser.  
7.00 Footsteps: "The Rose Red City." David Drew retraces a journey across Syria and Jordan.

**TV CORNER**

**This week on KTV 2**

8.00 News in English.  
8.40 A Year in the Life: Starring Richard Kiley.  
9.40 The Hit Squad: "Catch it before it catches you" is the theme of this practical jokes series.  
10.10 Bastin' Loose: "It is a Pizza Cake." Sonny, on parole, comes to live with Mimmi and her adopted family.  
10.30 Jake and the Fatman: "Baby Face." Jake and the prosecutor look into two murder cases. Starring: William Conrad and Joe E. Penny.  
11.30 News Summary/followed by Magazine D'Actualite/ Closedown

**WEDNESDAY**  
6.00 Holy Quran  
6.10 Transformers: cartoon serial.  
6.30 Emma and Grandpa: a new series for children, based on the story of a seven-year-old girl and her grandfather.  
7.00 Prestige: two children try to run away from a man who imposes his way of life on them.  
7.30 Mutual of Omaha  
8.00 News in English  
8.40 You and the Law: local programme. Matlock: "The Doctors." A doctor on trial for killing a colleague.  
9.40 The Cosby Show: Dr Huxtable challenges a colleague. Comedy.  
10.10 Feature Film: "The Diamond Trap." A private eye and a young girl get involved in murder and diamond smuggling. Starring: Brooke Shields, Ed Marino and Twiggy.  
12.00 News Summary/followed by Magazine D'Actualite/ Holy Quran/Closedown

**THURSDAY**  
6.00 Holy Quran  
6.10 The Real Ghost Busters: cartoon serial.  
6.30 Fairy Tale Theatre: "Aladin and His Lamp." Tonight's story



Brooke Shields and Twiggy star in The Diamond Trap.

**Choice of the week**

**THE DIAMOND TRAP:** (Wednesday, 10.10 pm, KTV 2). Based on the novel The Great Diamond Robbery by John Minahan, it is about a New York detective who attempts to foil a \$12 million diamond heist but fails amid a maze of double-crosses and comic twists. The film stars Brooke Shields, Howard Hesseman, Ed Marino and Twiggy.

**HINDI FEATURE FILM** (Friday, 3.30 pm, KTV 1). Programmers have announced they will broadcast a Hindi film on Friday afternoon.

**NIGHT CHEMIST**

Kuwait  
Al Salem Pharmacy  
Souk Muttahada, Fahd Al Salem St.  
Amal Pharmacy  
Comm. Market, Mubarak Al Kabir St.  
Hawalli and Nagra  
Al Badar Pharmacy  
Tunis St.  
Salimiya and Rumaithiya  
Shifa Pharmacy  
Hmoud Anjari Complex, Salem Al Mubarak St.  
Fahheel and Ahmad  
Iman Pharmacy  
Makkah St.  
Farwaniya  
Al Jazira Pharmacy  
Hmoud Haef Al Rashidi Bldg, Main St.  
Jahra  
Al Noor Pharmacy  
Abdul Aziz Nasrullah Bldg, Matafi St.

**CINEMA TODAY**

Al Andalus  
Youn Mur Youm Helu (Arabic)  
Starring: Faten Hamama, Mohammed Muneer  
Al Sahimiya  
Closed  
Al Hama  
Delta Force Commando  
Starring: Fred Williamson  
Drive-In  
Al Jawahar Dimishq Lazim Tatum (Arabic)  
Starring: Hussein Fahmi, Bosi  
Al Firdous  
Aatish (Hindi)  
Starring: Jeetendra, Neetu Singh  
Fahheel Open-Air  
Pyr Mohabbat (Hindi)

**PRAYERS**

Fajr	5.18 am
Zuhr	12.01
Asr	3.02 pm
Maghreb	5.22
Isha	6.42

**TELEVISION PROGRAMMES**

**KTV 1**

**MORNING**  
9.00 Holy Quran  
9.10 Good Morning  
9.15 Cartoon serial  
9.45 World News via Satellite  
10.00 Abna'a Al Diyah: Arabic serial; part 1. Starring: Jamil Awadh, Juliet Awadh, Rubi Al Safdi, Iman Kamel.  
10.50 News Summary/Good Morning  
11.00 Saghirat Alal Hayat: local Arabic serial; starring Hayat Al Fahad, Zainab Al Dahi, Hind Kamel, Dawood Hussein, Mohammad Sayyed Essa.  
12.00 Gulf Cuisine  
1.00 News Summary  
1.05 Holy Quran/Closedown

**EVENING**  
4.00 Holy Quran  
4.15 World News via Satellite  
4.45 Cartoon serial

5.15 Young Artists  
5.45 Nazrat Alal Alam: documentary  
6.00 Liqa Fi Al Zakira: historical serial; starring: Fawzi Mahdi, Nizar Al Samarai.  
7.00 News Summary  
7.15 Noor Al Islam: religious talk  
7.50 Security and Citizens  
8.30 Good Evening  
9.00 News in Arabic  
9.50 Daerat Al Andath: Circle of Events  
10.45 Ijazah Saadeh Jiddan: Arabic play, starring: Laila Taher, Abu Bakr Ezzar, George Seedham, In'am Saluss.  
12.15 News Summary/World News via Satellite/Closedown

**KTV 2**

6.00 Holy Quran  
6.10 Duck Tales: cartoon serial  
6.30 Scheme of Things  
7.00 Sea Urchins: "Last Laugh." The children escape from

thier captors.  
7.30 Throb: "My Fair Punk Lady." Sandy and Rocky try to help a young singer  
8.00 News in English  
8.40 Our House: "Children's Crusade." Ghosts from the past haunt grandfather and disturb the family  
9.30 Horizon: "Purple Warrior." Part Two. A field report on rules for co-ordinating war efforts  
10.30 Made-for-TV movie: "Necessity." Starring: Loni Anderson, John Heard. The story of a woman who leaves home but is persuaded by her husband to return  
11.30 News Summary: Magazine D'Actualite/ Holy Quran/Closedown.

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

**RADIO PROGRAMMES**

**BBC World Services**

0000 World News  
30 Personal View  
45 Recording of the Week  
0100 News Summary followed by Outlook  
25 Financial News  
30 Classical Record Review  
45 Book Choice  
50 News Ideas  
0200 World News  
09 British Press Review  
15 Network UK  
30 People and Politics  
0300 World News  
09 News about Britain  
15 The World Today  
30 The Vintage Chart Show  
0400 Newsdesk  
30 Here's Humph  
45 Personal View  
0500 World News  
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary  
30 Financial News  
40 Words of Faith  
45 The World Today  
0600 Newsdesk  
30 Meridian

0700 World News  
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary  
30 From the Weeklies  
45 Network UK  
0800 World News  
09 Words of Faith  
15 A Jolly Good Show  
0900 World News  
09 British Press Review  
15 The World Today  
30 Financial News followed by Sports Roundup  
45 Personal View  
1000 News Summary followed by Here's Humph  
15 Letter from America  
30 People and Politics  
1100 World News  
09 News about Britain  
15 Classical Record Review  
30 Meridian  
1200 Newsdesk  
15 Multitrack 3  
45 Sports Roundup  
1300 World News  
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary  
30 Network UK  
45 From Old-Time to New Country  
1400 News Summary followed by The Ken Bruce Show  
30 Sportsworld

1500 Newsdesk  
15 Sportsworld contd  
1600 World News  
09 News about Britain  
15 Sportsworld contd  
1700 1-minute News Summary followed by Sportsworld contd  
45 Sports Roundup  
1800 Newsdesk  
30 Composer of the Month: Purcell  
1900 News Summary followed by Play of the Week: 14th The Tempest; 21st The Lovers of Vienne; 28th The Countess Cathleen  
2000 World News  
09 From Our Own Correspondent  
25 Words of Faith  
30 Meridian

**Urdu**

1900 Opening  
1910 Bettehan Qaul  
1920 Songs  
1935 Press Report  
1940 Jaizah  
2000 News in Urdu  
2020 Songs  
2040 Dhamak  
2100 Closedown

**WHAT'S ON**

**ARTS**

**Kuwait Science Museum**  
DAILY: 5 pm onwards: natural history exhibits from in and around Kuwait, including blue whale. Friday: 9 am onwards.  
**Islamic Arts Museum**  
SAT - THURS: 8.30 am to 12.30 noon and 4.30 to 7.30 pm. Collection includes rare Islamic artefacts, Quranic manuscripts, ceramics, carpets and marine equipment.  
**Arabian Gulf St.**  
**Tareq Rajab Museum**  
SAT - THURS: 9 am to 12 noon; 4 to 7 pm; FRIDAYS: 9 am to noon. Collection of Islamic arts, costumes and jewellery from the Muslim world.  
**Sadu House**  
SAT - THURS: 9 am to 12 noon; 4 to 7 pm. Exhibits include bedouin handicrafts - rugs, saddle bags, cushions and textiles. Closed on Friday.  
**Iwan Gallery**  
Exhibition of lithographs by three 19th century Orientalists. Open from 9 am to 1 pm, 5 to 9 pm, at the gallery located in Zahra Complex, Salmiya.  
**Kuwait Society for Formative Arts**  
Up to Feb 9: The Kuwait Society for Formative Arts will hold the annual general exhibition, displaying art works by Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti plastic artists.

**THEATRE**

**Konkani Drama**  
FEB 3: IAC, 4 pm: N.G.O.A. will present a Konkani drama Ekuch Kazar, directed by M. Boyer. Also taking part are Betty Naz, Sabina, Rosario Dias and others.  
**Kuwait Players**  
**Auditions**  
FEB 2: 4.30 to 6 pm, Universal American School, Salwa; and Feb 5, 7 pm at Messilah Beach Hotel: Kuwait Players auditions will hold two of their coming productions. (1): The Great Celestial Cow, a comedy with music, about an Indian family adapting to their new life in England; directed by Mike Consden (2) When Did You Last See Your Trousers?, a British farce, directed by Mike Johnston. Indians particularly welcome for the first production. For details ring Malcolm Walker - 5624111 ext. 716.

**MUSIC**

**Dhanak**  
FEB 3: The music groups Funkada and Saaz aur Awaz

will present a musical evening entitled "Dhanak" at the SAS Tent, featuring a number of local singers and musicians. For details contact Anwar - Tel: 398-5456; Zulfiqar - Tel: 4814733.

**LECTURE**

**Symposia on Heart Disease**  
JAN 28/29: 4.30 pm: Senior specialists, Doctors Edwin Bevin, Delos Cosgrove and Mehdi Razavi from the Cleveland Clinic will participate in symposia on Coronary Heart Disease, Carotid Artery Stenosis and Coronary Artery Bypass Graft Surgery at the Faculty of Medicine, Room 144, Jabriya.

**EXHIBITIONS**

**Children's Books of the Year '88**  
FEB 4-16: An exhibition of British books for children, written by award winning writers and illustrators, will be held at the British Council, Mansouriya.  
The programme is as follows:  
FEB 4: Opening by Dr Rasha Al Sabah, Vice Rector for community Affairs, Kuwait University; Dr Elizabeth Al Kaoud will give a lecture on "From Tots to Teens, A survey of British Literature for Children".  
FILMS: Feb 8 (6 pm): Winnie the Pooh and the Blustery Day (cartoon); Feb 14 (6 pm): The Amazing Adventures of Sherlock Holmes (cartoons).  
**STORYTELLING SESSION:** A professional storyteller Ms Merry Ewing will conduct the sessions. Feb 9/15 (9.40 - 10.30 am) a session for children - aged seven to 10; (11-12 noon) stories for children aged three to six.  
All are welcome. Free admission. But it is advisable to reserve seats. Tel: 251-5512; 253-3204; 253-3227.

**SOCIAL**

**Daniella**  
FEB 3: Daniella celebrates "Fastelavn" at Gazelle Club from 1 pm. For reservations call Karen-Marie - 3715146; Ingrid - 3713670.  
**KAPILKU**  
KAPILKU has launched a membership drive. Filipinos can obtain application forms from the Philippine embassy and Holiday Inn's bowling alley and Filipino restaurants in Kuwait.  
**Yesudas Show postponed**  
The Yesudas Musical Show has been postponed due to the singer's illness, according to a news release issued by the

Embassy of India. The show scheduled for Jan 26/27 at the Granada theatre will now be held on Feb 9/10 at the same venue, it said.

**Kuwait Caledonians**  
FEB 2: The Caledonians will hold the Burns Night (Thursday) at the Messilah Beach Hotel. The guest from Scotland will be Jack Glenny. Tel: 5335082; 5332235; 3727691 ext. 253.

**Kuwait Rondels**  
FEB 16: the Kuwait Rondels Grand Ball '89 will be held at the Messilah Beach Hotel. Tickets are now available. Tel: 5337597.

**HOTELS**

**At the SAS**  
**BISTRETTO:** a new Italian restaurant has been opened at the hotel. A selection of Italian dishes are offered in addition to international and local specialties prepared by Chef Peter D. Zobrist.  
Al Boom: the floating restaurant will offer a different speciality every two days as well as the Al Boom menu of charcoal grills. Peacock Room: offers a wide variety of Chinese cuisine introduced by chef Von Kwee Kiong.  
**At Messilah Beach**  
**MUBARAKIYAH** Restaurant: open 24 hours, buffet breakfast, lunch and dinner and snacks. Sundays: Ladies Day; Mondays: birthday special; Fridays: special buffet "a go go".  
**At the Holiday Inn**  
FEB 2: 8 pm. The hotel's Diamond Club presents an evening of entertainment; fun and surprises include competitions. The highlight of the evening will be a fashion show by local designer Tapati Ray. For reservations contact the hotel. Every Wednesday is "Sea Drama on Ice" in Al Dana.  
Thursday night is Indian night featuring exotic eastern cuisine; and listen to the music played by the Gharibian Trio. Enjoy Arabian Night in Al Andalus Supper Club on Thursday nights. Friday brunch - fun time for families; games, prizes. Also open to Jaycee Club members.  
**At the Sheraton**  
**RICCARDO'S:** Italian cuisine prepared using home-made pasta; lunch and dinner, evening entertainment by the Sienna's Duo. Closed on Fridays.  
Al Hamba: Sundays: Lebanese cuisine; Tuesday's is Thai Night; Wednesday's: seafood night; musicians provide a blend of music from the East and the West.  
Friday's buffet brunch while the children enjoy games in the

ballroom next door.  
Hunt Room: lunch and dinner rest., specialises in meat and fish dishes.  
Le Tarbouche: offers a taste of Lebanon for lunch and dinner.  
Thursdays: Arab world specialties night. Coffee Shop offers casual meals and quick lunches plus a daily special.  
**At the Remada**  
**AL BENDAR** Coffee Shop offers continental and Arabic buffets for breakfast, lunch and dinner; 6 am to midnight; a la carte available.  
Thursday's is BBQ Night at Le Mirage Night Club, with full buffet and entertainment by the Al Arzz Band. The Friday Family Brunch introduces cartoon characters on the ship's discovery; train tour of the hotel's garden and waterfront.  
The Marina Takeaway Counter features a selection of sandwiches and snacks, 4 pm to 11 pm.  
**At the Continental**  
**GARDENIA:** 7 am to midnight; buffets featuring Arabic, Continental and Indian food. Special buffet for Thursday dinner and Friday lunch. Dabbar: daily Indian lunch buffet, except Friday; a la carte dinner.  
**At the Meridian**  
UNTIL Jan 31: Shrimps promotion at La Brasserie. Fresh shrimps prepared in a variety of ways are on offer.  
Every Sunday: Mexican Night at La Brasserie. A wide selection of Mexican dishes are offered; menu includes tacos, nachos, paelia and refried beans; live entertainment.  
Versailles: offers a new concept in dining, featuring a selection of grilled seafood, meat or fish fondue and other dishes, open for lunch and dinner. Businessman's lunch is also featured. Every Thursday is Jam Session at La Brasserie, featuring Remy D'Mello. Friday's, there is family fun with Oriental buffet and music.  
**At the Kuwait Plaza**  
Filipino night held every Sunday from 7 pm to 9.30 pm. Al Dallah coffee shop: buffet breakfast, lunch and dinner; also set menu; mini-business lunch. International Food Arcade: 4 to 10 pm; ice-cream festival; light snacks served from 10.00 am to 11.00 pm.  
**Bosphorus** Restaurant: Turkish cuisine, a la carte; lunch and dinner daily except Saturday.  
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## Research on portable electric heart

By A.J. Hostettler

HERSHEY, Pennsylvania (AP): US researchers hope to develop an artificial, electrically powered heart that is portable enough to allow its human recipients to walk, exercise and even work.

Barney Clark, who received the world's first permanent, artificial heart in 1982 at the University of Utah, lived for 112 days with an air-driven heart.

Recipients of air-driven, or pneumatic, hearts must generally remain in bed all the time because they are linked by tubes to large compressors.

"The advantage of these (electric) hearts is that you'll be able to put everything inside the patient's chest except the battery," said Gerson Rosenberg, assistant chief of Pennsylvania State University's division of artificial organs.

Rosenberg cautioned, however, "nobody is ever saying that this is going to be as good as a natural heart, that this patient is going to forget he's got it and go on to live a normal life. That's not true."

### Working

Researchers at Utah and Pennsylvania State have been working since the mid-1970s on electrical versions of the air-driven heart. Research is also being conducted at Abiomed Inc. of Danvers, Massachusetts, working with the Texas Heart Institute of Houston and Nimbus Co. of Rancho Cordova, California, working with the Cleveland Clinic.

These facilities, which are getting 20 million dollars' worth of federal funding for electrical heart research, are working on similar designs. The device must be able to pump eight litres (2.1 gallons) of blood a minute.

The Pennsylvania state device, which is roughly the size of a human fist, has a 10-pound (4.5 kilogram) rechargeable battery pack on a waist belt. A battery in the heart will let a recipient take off the external battery for up to 45 minutes.

Research on artificial hearts still remains a controversial issue.

In May, the National Institutes of Health decided to suspend the federal contracts for artificial-heart research, but then in July, the NIH reversed its decision, under pressure from members of the US Congress.

## Medical profession has taken a long time to recognise the disease

# ME: a lot more than mere hysteria

By Catherine Dawson

MOST doctors now recognise that myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME), or post-viral fatigue syndrome, is not all in the mind. But the question about this mystery disease remains: where does it come from?

One theory, according to a recent publication from the ME Action Campaign (which works to raise public consciousness and provide information on treatment and self-help), is the bowel. People with ME may have a "toxic colon".

The hypothesis that bowel malfunction could be at the root of some disease is founded on ancient medical knowledge and is the basis of naturopathic medicine.

The bowel contains millions of bacteria and other organisms necessary for normal functioning. It is increasingly recognised that any imbalance may have serious consequences.

Research at St Mary's Hos-

**Myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME) or post-viral fatigue syndrome is a mystery disease that puts severe strain on sufferers.**

ital, London, shows that half of the people with ME have persistent infection of the gut by any of a range of common viruses.

There are indications that about 50 per cent of ME sufferers have candida albicans, a yeast infestation of the gut. And there is anecdotal evidence of persistent bacterial infection.

A high proportion of sufferers also have bowel problems, frequently diagnosed as irritable bowel syndrome. Food intolerance also points to all not being well in the digestive tract.

The problem of diagnosing ME, believed to affect about 150,000 people in Britain, is the variety of symptoms, including muscle pain and weakness, palpitations, hyperventilation, short-term memory loss, blurred

vision, depression and digestive difficulties. All sufferers experience severe fatigue unrelieved by rest. It can last for years, fluctuating from day to day, week to week, and varying according to time of day.

### Infection

ME is often precipitated by a viral infection such as gastric or respiratory flu, although it may develop gradually. Susan recalls: "I had a bout of flu and recovered. Three weeks later I began to feel ill again, with muscular aches and weakness — like flu but without the fever. This feeling has ebbed and flowed for about a year."

There is no specific treatment. A large proportion of people recover within two years; some much longer. A small proportion

become chronic sufferers. It is not known why certain people develop ME and not others. Stress during the original illness is thought a contributory factor.

Although the condition is neither life-threatening nor degenerative, diagnosis of ME, if it is definite, is devastating. Prolonged debility and the up and down pattern of symptoms put a severe strain on the sufferer, friends and relatives. Susan says: "At best my stamina is low, thought I feel OK. And at worst I feel as though I've got flu — and I haven't got ME as badly as other people I know of. Lack of energy is my real problem. I have insufficient energy for full-time employment."

Because ME is a newly recognised condition, because of practical problems of diagnosis, and because patients look fit and well despite their weakness, they are vulnerable to charges of malingering or mental illness. The Dean of Westminster Abbey, Michael Mayne, remembers the misery in his book, *A Year Lost and Found*: "There were a few times when the very frustration of not getting better reduced me to tears, tears not of rage or anger — or not often — but just, I suppose, of plain self-pity."

### Research

Research into ME in progress at several hospitals, some of it sponsored by the ME Association, a patients' organisation with 13,000 members. A test for the protein enclosing the enterovirus (one which lives in the gut), has been developed at St Mary's. Fifty per cent of people tested are positive but this does not mean that the others do not have ME. It may be that the virus is no longer found after some time.

Gamma globulin injections (which boost the immune system) and prolonged sleep therapy are among the medical approaches under investigation. Dr Peter Beahan, in Glasgow, has found what appears to be a unique abnormality in the blood of people with ME — lack of a particular antigen stimulating the immune system and massively high levels of another chemical messenger.

Meanwhile, a doctor recognising the existence of ME is likely to advise rest, relaxation and vitamins while the patient waits



British yachtswoman and author Claire Francis is diagnosed as being a major sufferer of ME.

for his or her body to recover.

Unsurprisingly, people who can afford it have sought help from acupuncturists, herbalists and homeopaths. There are reports of symptom relief and even cure. But since most people with ME recover spontaneously, it is hard to prove any treatment's efficacy.

Undaunted, the ME Action Campaign plans to test its hypothesis that ME originates in the bowel by sponsoring a pilot alternative research project due in the spring. Monitored by Dr Christine Page of the Institute for Complementary Medicine, it will involve 60 people with a definite diagnosis of ME.

The research will involve two combination treatments: homeopathy and bowel detoxification; and anti-candida and anti-allergy treatment.

Both groups will be advised about nutritional supplements. Half the people with ME are thought to have candida, a parasitic infestation of the bowel. Dr Belinda Dawes, medical adviser to the ME Action Campaign, provides anti-candida and anti-allergy treatment. The Royal London Homoeopathic Hospital also

provides this treatment.

"ME messes up your life like any other long-term illness," says Susan. "It throws you back on your resources and could make someone crack up who wouldn't under other circumstances." People with ME get sacked, marriages break up and children are neglected. The strain is enormous.

The medical profession has taken a long time to recognise ME as anything other than hysteria and still tends to psychologise about it through lack of hard data.

Nevertheless, as in all disease, Dr Page believes that "things that are unresolved in the mind come out as physical illness." ME is no exception. Most alternative practitioners will weave counselling into their consultations.

While the bowel may prove to be the seat of the illness, the state of mind is important, not only when people fall ill but also as they struggle to recover from a demoralising illness. It may not be possible to avert ME but people should perhaps be careful to recover properly from viral infections before resuming normal activities.

## Home cancer checks on the horizon

By Christine McGourty

DO-IT-YOURSELF cancer tests which can be bought over the counter and used in the home may sound like the invention of a science fiction writer with a dangerous imagination. But biotechnology companies are moving in that direction, and some believe the products are only a few years away.

One such company is Enzymix, a small Cambridge-based company, only a year old. Its chief executive, Dr John Meers, boasts of the lucrative award of merit the company received last month from the Department of Trade and Industry in the UK — worth £85,000 (conditional on the continued success of the research).

A new technique for *in vitro* diagnosis of a major cancer, is what the company claims to have found. The technique used and the specific cancer remain a secret while the company applies for patents.

Meers is optimistic that the patent will be awarded, but it could take up to 18 months. He is also confident of the future success of the technique which uses enzymes to detect a chemical "marker" indicating the presence of a cancer.

It will provide a cost-effective method for screening the entire population," he says. Screening tests are not meant to be fully diagnostic. But diagnostic kits which could be used at home could be feasible within five years, he says.

Other cancer researchers, though in the dark about the technique's details, are sceptical. They greet with caution yet more announcements of the discovery of such cancer tests.

Professor Ken Bagshawe of the Charing Cross Hospital says: "In the past 20 years we have investigated at least half a dozen general cancer tests and none of them has proved satisfactory."

He complains that investigating such claims is expensive and time-consuming, as has already been seen in America where home kits to detect faecal blood, a possible sign of colon cancer, are very popular. The practical and ethical problems that could arise from the uncontrolled availability of such tests are "horrendous," he claims.

As well as the problem of providing counselling after tests, he adds, there would be cost problems: "If you had everybody doing cancer tests on themselves, the cost of investigating them would be enormous, even if there was a relatively low rate of false positive tests of about five per cent."

The cost of tests will impose a "very serious limit" on their provision, he says: Charing Cross Hospital can carry out tests at £3 a sample, but homebased kits would cost very much more. Meers, on the other hand, predicts that they would cost only "a few pounds."

"There would be a lot of resistance," says Biotechnology consultant Dr Nick Ashley of PA Technology. "The problem is that therapy lags so far behind diagnosis. People are frightened to know the truth."

Bagshawe agrees that there could be some resistance in the medical profession, too. "This country is more cautious than elsewhere about the use of such tests," he says. "Doctors want proof that the test can contribute to the improvement in the quality of life of the patient or an increase in life expectancy."

Meers admits that the ethical problems will be more difficult to solve than the technical ones. But he adds that "early diagnosis gives doctors more time to effect a cure."

While the debate about ethics and merits continues, the biotechnology industry is racing to market the kit. By 1990 the world market in *in vitro* diagnostic test kits could be worth £177 million, Ashley says. About 14 million tests will be used in Britain, though none is yet suitable for home use.



A mobile hospital unit operating in a rural area in Pakistan.

## Mobile help for the blind

BLINDNESS is a tragic affliction many unfortunate people suffer from childhood or through illness and accident. It is even more so when the sufferer is poor and comes through poverty and ignorance as is the case in many Third World countries today, including Pakistan.

It is estimated that there are over 600,000 blind people in Pakistan, including 150,000 children below the age of 14.

One out of three persons is unnecessarily blind, he or she can regain sight if corrective surgery was available.

There is approximately one eye-doctor for every 10,000 people, and the problem is com-

pounded by the fact that most of these doctors live in urban areas leaving at least 70 per cent of the rural population in the dark.

Poor communication facilities and financial constraints make it practically impossible for these rural poor to come to urban centres for treatment.

It was to provide relief to precisely such groups of people that two retired business executives entered the scene with little else but their own resources, time and organisational skills.

Graham Layton, a Pakistani national of English extraction, and Zaka Rahmatulla pooled in £25,000 each from their savings

to found the Layton-Rahmatulla Benevolent Trust in 1985.

Thousands of people, for whom even basic health care is a luxury, have benefited from the benevolence of these two gentlemen who saw fit to work even harder after their retirement.

To help administer the trust, the two founders appointed a group of trustees representing various professions and communities in Pakistan, all of whom give freely of their time.

From the onset it was decided that if the blind were unable to come to urban areas for treatment, then that treatment would have to be provided to them where they lived. On that principle, the trust began its activities with a small mobile hospital in the interior of Sind.

The pattern for future growth and the trust now operates over 15 different projects and affiliate services throughout Pakistan.

Mobile units, air-conditioned and equipped for surgery move from one area to another providing basic medical facilities. Where needed buildings are constructed or rented to house field hospitals, and a staff of trained doctors are always on hand to provide help to the needy.

The main emphasis of the trust is on the prevention and cure of blindness but the mobile units are also equipped to detect and treat tuberculosis and cancer.

The trust is also involved in a programme to fight leprosy and holds several workshops to train para-medics in preventive health care. An absolute first for Pakistan is the introduction of a lending library service which provides free cassettes and books to the blind by mail.

The biggest success to date is the establishment of a brand-new purpose-built eye hospital in Karachi, on the outskirts of Karachi.

This hospital built with the trust's own funds provides the same high standards of service and facilities available to the more affluent in the city's private hospitals. And it is totally free.

Enthusiasm, dedication or expertise are obviously not lacking at the Layton-Rahmatulla Trust. What does constrain future growth is finance. The two founders have willed the bulk of their estates to the trust in the event of their death. Funds come in from the Royal Society for the Blind in the UK, the Islamic Zakat Fund in Pakistan, commercial organisations and private individuals, but much more is needed if the trust is to maintain and expand its services.

The founders remain hopeful that such help will be forthcoming. If their achievements in the last four years are anything to go by, there is reason for such optimism.

## Vaccine for measles, mumps and rubella

# Major advance in child health

By T. Stutterford

THE introduction of MMR (measles, mumps and rubella vaccine) is a major advance in child health, so important that perhaps in future generations should consider assuming a temporal as well as a spiritual role, making certain that their charges are brought to their general practitioner for vaccination some time between the first and fourth year.

The previous campaign to vaccinate against rubella (German measles), started in 1970, has only been a moderate success: some 400 pregnancies annually are still complicated by German measles, and although large numbers of the affected foetuses are aborted, about 20 babies are born each year with severe defects as a result.

The vaccine will also reduce the dread of mumps for male adolescents who have not had the disease in childhood, for thereafter they always fear they may catch it and be one of the

25 per cent who develop orchitis — inflammation and later atrophy of the testis — as a result; it is little consolation to reassure them that mumps orchitis is usually unilateral, and so unlikely to produce sterility.

Mumps is a much more serious complication; most common cause of viral meningitis and encephalitis.

Measles is an underrated disease. It is not only a matter of a rash, transient temperature, cough and runny eyes, but is a frequent cause of pneumonia, infected ears and other secondary infections. It can have even more serious complications: occasionally it causes alterations in the blood clotting mechanism which induce a liability to haemorrhage.

Additionally it can attack the central nervous system so that one in 800 cases develop encephalitis, and more rarely a particularly nasty and invariably fatal disease, subacute sclerosing panencephalitis.

Doctors argue about the best place to inject the baby. Pre-war doctors favoured the upper arm; those who did their paediatrics immediately after the war selected the upper outer quarter of the buttocks.

In the past 25 years it has been fashionable to use the side of the upper thigh, even though this is a very much more painful site than the arm or buttocks, because it was thought less likely to result in damage.

Dr Keith Thompson, a well known GP, confirms after self-experimentation that injections in the buttocks are the least painful, and maintains that the site fell into disuse only because of fears that damage to the sciatic nerve, the main nerve to the leg, might occur.

He says this is because 25 years ago inoculations were given with a long needle and were toxic; now a short needle is used, and the injections are harmless. In Thompson's view babies deserve to have a comparatively painless injection.

## New treatment reverses bone loss

DALLAS, (AP): US scientists said recently that a new treatment for osteoporosis has proved successful in reversing the bone loss that afflicts an estimated 5 million Americans.

A five-year clinical test of the treatment reveals that use of a new slow-release form of sodium fluoride — long used by dentists to strengthen teeth — when given with calcium citrate can reverse the effects of osteoporosis by increasing bone mass, said researchers at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Centre.

Spinal osteoporosis results from a gradual loss of a kind of bone found primarily in the spine. It most commonly affects elderly, postmenopausal women.

An estimated 500,000 people sustain osteoporosis spine fractures each year, and a third of women over age 65 will have spinal vertebral fractures during their lifetimes, according to the medical centre. The condition results in

shortened stature, curvature of the back and a protruding abdomen that can cause back pain and discomfort in the digestive system.

"Treatments such as estrogens and calcium supplements, which are directed at preventing bone loss, are useful in averting the development of osteoporosis when they are applied early, such as during the early postmenopausal period," said Dr Charles Pak, chief of mineral metabolism at Southwestern.

"But they have limited value in patients with established osteoporosis, who have already sustained a substantial bone loss. Our treatment is directed toward the latter group."

The treatment is being developed by Southwestern and its general clinical research centre, sponsored by the National Institutes of Health. It is supported by the National Institute for Arthritis, Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases.



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## Musical Evening



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# Kings reign in harmony

By David Gillard

"YOU'RE a great group," said Paul McCartney, amiably shaking hands with the six gentlemen who had provided the backing on his latest record. Yet this was a group without a single guitar between them and an average age of 40. All they did was sing — in close harmony at that.

The "group" that had drawn the ex-Beatle's admiration was the King Singers, that versatile, barrier-breaking sextet of former King's College, Cambridge, choral scholars who this year celebrate their 20th anniversary.

McCartney's praise came at the end of a recording session in which the Singers had added some stylish harmonies to a new song of his entitled "The Frog Olympics" and destined to become part of his "Rupert the Bear" cartoon film. They had to plug happily like frogs for much of the time and when they toured the United States soon afterwards they found themselves mobbed, Beatles-style, because of the McCartney connection! Strange stories sit easily on the King Singers who have pluggled and trilled their way to fame and fortune.

Happily, they have been able recently to repay McCartney's compliment in the best way possible by recording a whole album of Beatles numbers, including "Penny Lane," "I Want to Hold Your Hand" and "A Hard Day's Night," for their "The Beatles Connection."

All the songs were sung of course, in the refined and inimitable style that has made their name synonymous with musical perfection and packed houses over the past two decades. As conductor Sir Neville Marriner once jocularly warned: "Never share a stage with animals, children or the King Singers!"

Their virtuosity is abundantly reflected in their repertoire — more than 3,000 works that range from Renaissance madrigals to pop songs and commissions from modernists such as Berio, Penderecki and Sir

Peter Maxwell Davies. Their wide ranging appeal has ensured international approval too, and their world tours have found them equally at home on television variety shows, the vaulted Renaissance churches of Europe, or the London Palladium.

**Status**

Their international status is reflected in the millions of albums they have sold worldwide. The recordings EMI released to celebrate their anniversary deliberately illustrated their extraordinary range, from the Beatles LP to a recording of English songs (including works by Bridge, Finzi, Holst and Rubbra) and two records of the sacred and the secular works of the 16th century Flemish master, Orlandus Lassus.

As you might expect from that, their beginnings were purely classical. Of the six choral scholars who got together to make sweet sounds of their own in 1968, only two of the original Singers remain — baritone Simon Carrington and counter-tenor Alastair Hume. Indeed, the origins of the group go back to 1965 when Simon and Alastair co-founded the rather more esoterically named Schola Cantorum Pro Musica Profana.

Alastair had always relished the differences and challenges of crossover musical tastes, having played in a skiffle group and a jazz band as a youngster, although the two first met in the base section of the National Youth Orchestra. Their singing took off at King's where, says Alastair, "my eyes were first opened to the English choral tradition." Simon, on the other hand, had been steeped in it. The son of a Westminster Abbey chorister he had a very traditional choral upbringing — though he too was interested in jazz.

Their classical education is evidently the keynote of the precision blending of voices — six sounding as one with split-second timing — but diversity was always their hallmark. After all, the ability to sing collegiate church music does not ensure



The King Singers. They celebrate their 20th anniversary this year.

that you can happily tackle a musical span of 500 years. Fun music from barbershop to the Ink Spots, first performed at Cambridge social functions like the May Ball, was to ensure them a wider audience. They have rung the changes ever since.

Yet when they started musical barrier-breaking was relatively new. Says Simon: "A few people like Cleo Laine and John Dankworth did a bit of crossover, but not a lot. It became more acceptable in the late 1970s and early 80s with our recordings. At least we tend to fall between two stools — pop numbers in one section of the store, classical pieces in another."

Although line-up has gradually changed over the years their brand of seamless music-

making has not. "Somebody once said that being a King Singer was a bit like marriage without the sex," says Alastair. "Though there have been a number of changes in the past ten years we have tried to keep it as close and friendly as it was in the early days. It is a very democratic function. We work as a committee of six equals, irrespective of age or experience."

A recent project called upon them to draw on all those democratic qualities as, to mark their anniversary, they were appointed artistic directors of the London Barbican Centre's "Summer in the City" festival from 31 July to 7 August. They devised a typical wide ranging programme of music-making that reflected their tastes and their friendships, everything

## McCartney plans to hit the road again

PAUL McCartney is going back on the road for the first time in 13 years with a world tour.

The former Beatle, who has appeared on stage just three times since touring with Wings in 1976, desperately wants to relaunch his career.

He is hoping to stage concerts in Russia, but will snub one of the world's main pop nations, Japan — where he was jailed for ten days in 1980 for possessing drugs.

A spokesman said, "Given what has happened, he won't be going there."

The tour, planned to begin in the late summer, will be a crucial moment in 44-year-old McCartney's career.

He has been disappointed by a series of artistic failures which began in 1984 when his film, Give My Regards To Broad Street, was a box office flop.

He has failed to record a hit album and his last major performance was during the Live Aid concert in 1985.

McCartney has spent the past few months recording a new LP in the studios at his Sussex farm.

Singer Elvis Costello has helped him, and McCartney has also formed a new group, which includes drummer Hamish Stewart, formerly of the Average White Band.



Paul McCartney

## Taylor Dayne takes over top of US charts

Taylor Dayne's *Don't Rush Me* made it to the number one spot among best selling single pop records in the United States. The hit disc was in second position a week ago.

Armageddon It by Def Leppard hopped up one notch to second place on the Cash Box magazine chart. Two Hearts by Phil Collins slipped from the top to third.

Soaring fast on the top 10 list was When I'm With You by Sheriff, up from 10th to 4th.

New to the top 10 this week was Straight Up by Paula Abdul, straight up from 17th to 5th.

Two other newcomers were The Way You Love Me by Karyn White, up from 11th to 7th. When the Children Cry by White Lion, up from 14th to 8th, and All This Time by Tiffany, up from 15th to 10th.

Deeper Than The Holler by Randy Travis stayed on for the second straight week at number one on the Cash Box magazine country-and-western singles chart. Highway 101's All the Reasons Why was second, and Song of the South by Alabama was third.

**Top ten US**

The top 10 pop singles, as rated by Cash Box magazine, with last week's positions in brackets:

1. (2) Don't Rush Me — Taylor Dayne (Arista).
2. (3) Armageddon It — Def Leppard (Mercury-Polygram).
3. (1) Two Hearts — Phil Collins (Atlantic).
4. (10) When I'm With You — Sheriff (Capitol).
5. (17) Straight Up — Paula Abdul (Virgin).
6. (9) Born To Be My Baby — Bon Jovi (Mercury-Polygram).
7. (11) The Way You Love Me — Karyn White (Warner Brothers).
8. (14) When the Children Cry — White Lion (Atlantic).
9. (4) I Remember Holding You — Boys Club (MCA).
10. (15) All This Time — Tiffany (MCA).

The top 10 country-western singles, as rated by Cash Box magazine, with last week's positions in brackets:

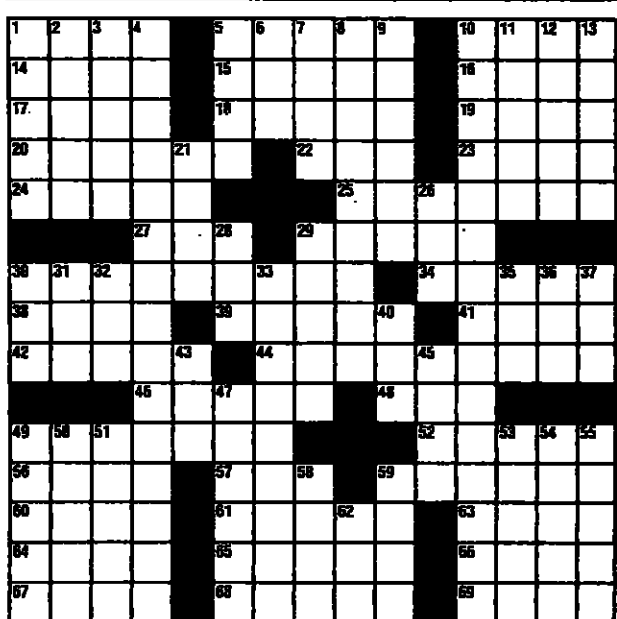
1. (1) Deeper Than The Holler — Randy Travis (Warner Brothers).
2. (2) All the Reasons Why — Highway 101 (Warner Brothers).

**Top ten UK**

This week's top 10 singles, as listed by Our Price Music Ltd., the national music retail chain, with last week's placings in parentheses:

1. (11) Something's Gotten Ahold of My Heart — Marc Almond and Gene Pitney (Parlophone).
2. (5) The Living Years — Mike and the Mechanics (WEA).
3. (1) Especially For You — Kylie Minogue and Jason Donovan (PWL).
4. (2) Crackers International — Erasure (Mute).
5. (8) Cuddly Toy — Roachford (CBS).
6. (7) She Drives Me Crazy — Fine Young Cannibals (London).
7. (3) Buffalo Stance — Nemch Cherry (Circa).
8. (4) Good Life — Inner City (10 Records).
9. (6) Baby I Love Your Way — Will To Power (Epic).

### TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
1. Memorable newsmen
  2. Huntley
  3. Blur
  4. Shiraz locale
  5. Roosevelt biographer
  6. Joseph
  7. Army chaplain
  8. Owner of 17
  9. Across
  10. The Charles' dog
  11. Heroic poems
  12. Gloom's partner
  13. The Rolling
  14. Much-used article
  15. Being to Cicero
  16. Parts of a bushel
  17. Embraced
  18. Fr. holy woman
  19. Trap or drum
  20. Sound from the phone
  21. Vestibule
  22. Mine, in Metz
  23. Assume a prayerful position
  24. Computer input
  25. Chisel
  26. Data
  27. transmission device
  28. — alla
  29. Calendar abbr.
  30. Bee, for one
  31. "The Lady and the Tramp"
  32. Chinese puppy
  33. Chinese dynasty
  34. Coach
  35. Parsenian
  36. Commemorative tablets
  37. Mild expletive
  38. Above
  39. Force
- DOWN**
1. Embrace
  2. Waste maker
  3. Dueling sword
  4. Get-together time
  5. Roman goddess of hope
  6. Tourist's aid
  7. Blue-pencil
  8. Michael or Gabriel
  9. Grayish-green shade
  10. Free time
  11. Resting place
  12. Sprang from
  13. Christened
  14. This, in Toledo
  15. Copenhagen
  16. coin
  17. Lodge member
  18. Curt the lip
  19. Tio — toe
  20. "bad boy!"
  21. Connective
  22. Break in
  23. Use a shuttle
  24. AAA way
  25. Quick to the helm
  26. Moon craft, for short
  27. Part of GB
  28. The greatest amount
  29. Makes fun of
  30. Freshwater food fish
  31. Feline
  32. Idiomatic
  33. Skirt style
  34. Heavenly food
  35. Rabbit of note
  36. Church part
  37. Detective
  38. Spade and others
  39. Tommy follower

### ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

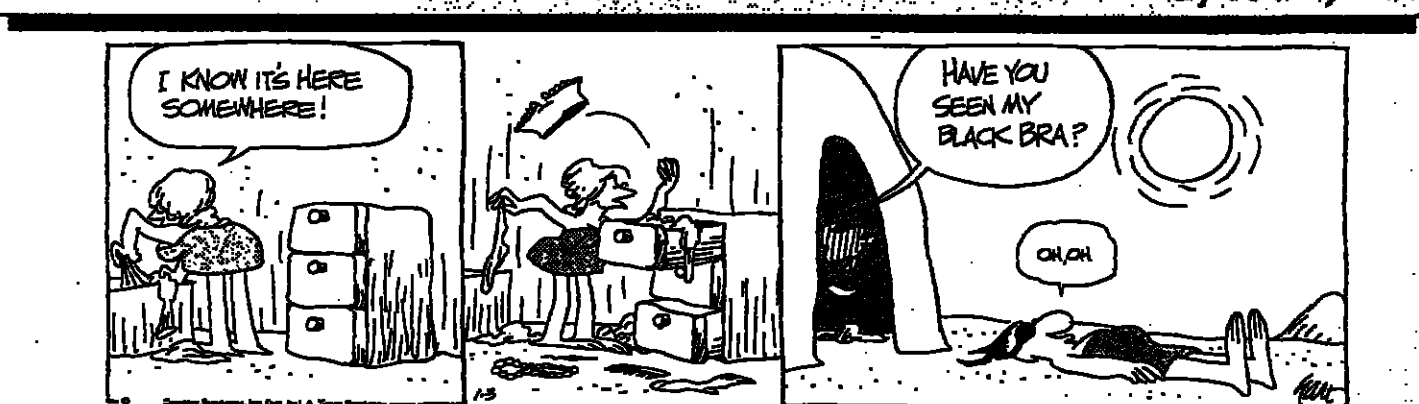
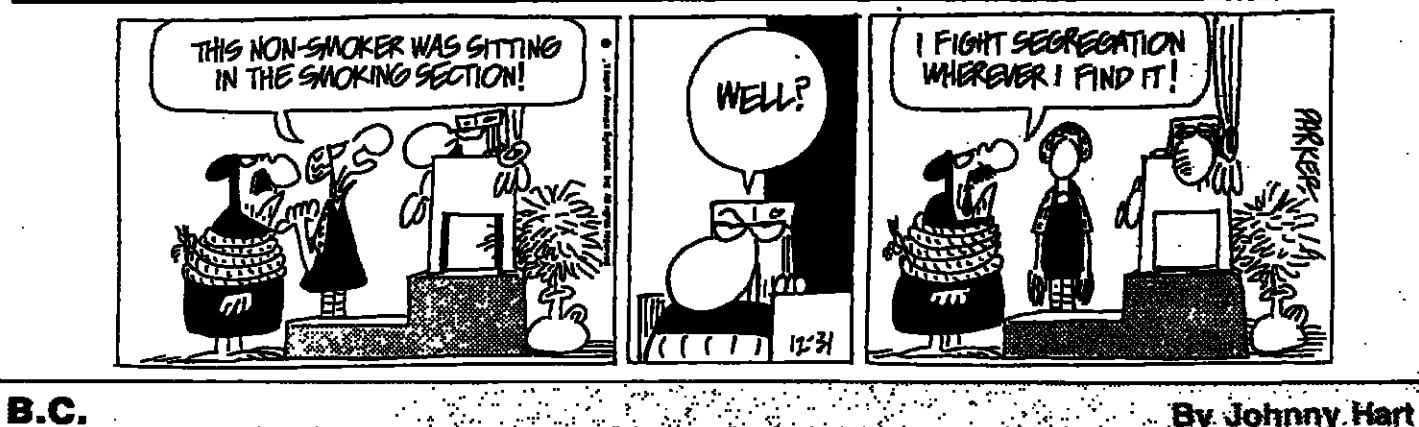
STRIP ATTA EPOIS  
AWARE PENDING MEGA  
BIZET ONTHEBALL  
ATON RDA OSAGES  
RIDE BECKY  
PRECISELY EATA  
ROD VENEER DSOS  
ENG ANT SEC TRI  
EDER DAKOTA RSA  
NODE INFASHION  
SWALE KEEN  
FAUCET EWE EGGS  
IRRITABLE CLEAR  
SCAN CEES PINTA  
COLD KART ANTIES

### GOBEN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF  
ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:**  
♠Q94 ♥QJ ♦J109 ♣QJ874  
Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What do you respond?  
A.—If you only count points, you have a maximum raise to two no trump. However, you have a reasonable five-card suit and excellent intermediates, which make your hand worth more like 11 than 9. Jump to three no trump.
- Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:**  
♠AKJ952 ♥Q93 ♦7 ♣A62  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass  
What do you bid now?  
A.—Be careful. Partner might have been forced to respond one no trump with a singleton spade. You have a six-loser hand, and unless partner can bid again voluntarily, chances of game are slim. Be content with a two-spade rebid.
- Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:**  
♠KQ10 ♥K93 ♦865 ♣AQJ6  
Partner opens the bidding with one spade. What do you respond?  
A.—Whether you play four or five-card majors, you should have four-card support for a jump raise of partner's suit. Thus, under either circumstance, you should make a waiting bid of two clubs, then jump raise spades at your next turn.
- Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:**  
♠K54 ♥KQ95 ♦KJ42 ♣AK  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass  
What do you bid now?  
A.—You have 19 high-card points, a balanced hand and stoppers in every suit. Partner has shown a minimum of 7 for his raise, so you should have enough for game. Jump to three no trump. Don't bid 2 NT and invite partner to do what you should have done yourself.
- Q.5—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:**  
♠A5 ♥A87 ♦AQ8 ♣109862  
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one heart. What action do you take?  
A.—You could have the best hand at the table, but there's nothing you can do. You can't make a takeout double without spades, and your club suit is nowhere near good enough for an overcall.
- Q.6—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:**  
♠A5 ♥A87 ♦AQ8 ♣109862  
The bidding has proceeded:  
East South West North  
1 ♥ Pass 1 ♠ Pass  
2 ♥ ?  
What action do you take?  
A.—Little has changed, except for the fact that you have learned that the enemy probably has the balance of power. A double of two hearts here would be penalty-oriented (you could have doubled one heart for takeout), and any bid could be inviting the enemy to hand your head to you on a silver platter.

### THE WIZARD OF ID



### YOUR STARS

- Aries (March 20 - April 18)**  
You will find it easier to stay on good terms with your neighbors. You should beware of driving too fast and too far. Something you have been learning will prove its value. Be moderate.
- Taurus (April 19 - May 19)**  
You will have to prepare yourself for a few changes which cannot be avoided. This is an interesting day for you, only you must not allow yourself to be distracted.
- Gemini (May 20 - June 20)**  
You will feel in high spirits and should not allow your exuberance to boil over. You should keep your wits very much about you. Have a good laugh at yourself. Be fair.
- Cancer (June 21 - July 21)**  
You will be able to do some repairs about the house, but make sure you know what you are doing. An obstacle which you imagined would be formidable will turn out to be quite easy to overcome. Make sure you do not overeat.
- Leo (July 22 - Aug 21)**  
You will be able to get a lot done today. Make sure you listen closely to what is said to you. Be even more than usual on the lookout for careless drivers. Be reasonable.
- Virgo (Aug 22 - Sept 21)**  
You should concern yourself with what is rather than with what you would like to be. Try to rid yourself of preconceptions and do not indulge in foregone conclusions. Show a little more goodwill. Be tolerant.
- Libra (Sept 22 - Oct 22)**  
The Moon's more favourable influence will help you to avoid deluding yourself. You will see where you have gone wrong in a particular case and will know what to do about it. A friend will be grateful for your help. Be frugal.
- Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)**  
You will tend towards negative reflections and should not allow yourself to be overcome by them. There are plenty of positive factors to dwell upon. Something you had feared might not happen. Be sincere.
- Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)**  
You are likely to follow a wrong track and should be prepared to alter course. A promise you have made should be kept, cost what it may. Avoid eating or drinking to excess. Be considerate.
- Capricorn Dec 22 - Jan 19)**  
You will tire rather easily and will be a little unsure of yourself. However you will soon regain your self-confidence. Try not to draw false conclusions. Be courteous.
- Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb. 18)**  
The influences are prevalently favourable and you will find it easier to relax. You will have something to be pleased but nothing to be smug about. Have a little more faith in yourself. Be practical.
- Pisces (Feb 19 - March 19)**  
You should make sure that you are not being a nuisance. You will be able to extend your cultural interests. Do not bite off more than you can chew. Be constructive.



# BUSINESS & FINANCE

## Banks in Kuwait explore prospects to finance post-war reconstruction

### We are ready to consider all viable proposals: Sheikh Ahmed

By M.C. Bose

**SHEIKH** Ahmed Abdullah Al Ahmed Al Sabah, the chairman and managing director of Burgan Bank in Kuwait told the Arab Times in an exclusive interview that the sentiment in the Gulf region, particularly in Kuwait after the declaration of the ceasefire has improved. This probably marks a turning point in the economic health of this region, he added.

Elucidating, he said that in both Iraq and Iran, the ceasefire is leading to a significant increase in demand for goods and services. The Arab Gulf states, and Kuwait in particular, are in a good position — both economically and geographically — to supply these two countries.

On the issue of investing surplus of Arab funds in the Arab world rather than abroad, the official said that there is no doubt that it is good for Arab investors to finance Arab capital projects. This is becoming easier as regional financial markets develop depth and integration, although there is still some way to go in this respect.

**Investment**  
He added that it is important to balance investment flows. Too much will bid up the prices of goods and services, including real estate and share prices, causing inflation. Alternatively, if there is a scarcity of funds, valid investment opportunities might be missed.

In Kuwait, the markets are

sufficiently well developed and it is unlikely that viable investment projects will suffer from a lack of finance. Accordingly, investment abroad is not bad if it increases the country's future income.

Speaking on overall growth prospects of the Kuwaiti economy, GNP growth, different facets of financial system and Kuwaiti banking, Sheikh Ahmed said that the end of the war between Iraq and Iran, and consequently their reconstruction needs, should help the Kuwaiti economy. He added: "We are in an excellent position to develop our role as the major Gulf entrepot to Iraq. The extra demand for exports from Kuwait should provide a substantial boost to GDP."

Continuing, he said quite apart from re-export business, local industrial and commercial companies will supply goods and services to the neighbouring countries. This will be translated into a higher pace of transactions at the banks, with more buoyant demand for credit and trade finance. At Burgan Bank "we are fine-tuning our services for import-export and other industrial and commercial concerns operating through Kuwait and in Iraq and Iran."

With regard to the financial markets, it is encouraging to note that they remained stable throughout 1988. Interbank interest rates were very low at the start of the year, which helped the new market in treasury bills and bonds. Domestic interest rates rose in the second



Sheikh Ahmed Abdullah Al Sabah

half of the year, mainly reflecting pressures from higher interest rates worldwide.

The dollar was steady all through 1988, trading in a range of between 270 and 280 fils to the dollar. Activity in the bond market was uneventful, while the stock exchange received a welcome push from regulatory improvements in May, and the ceasefire in July, the official said.

However, he added, the overheating in the American and British economies will keep interest rates high in these countries. This will naturally maintain pressure on interest rates in

Arab and international economists, the banker said that he generally took the view that private sector entrepreneurs are better at running businesses than are bureaucracies. Privatisation has indeed proved successful in the industrialised countries, he added. However, he said, it is necessary to consider each case on its own merits, taking into account issues such as "national interest," which are wider than pure profit motives.

#### Loans

On Kuwaiti banks raising syndicated loans to Iran and Iraq, the official said that the commercial banks in Kuwait are already exploring the prospects for helping Iraq and Iran to finance their reconstruction. We are ready to consider all viable proposals, he added.

On the impact of introducing higher interest rates on the Kuwaiti Stock Market and real estate, the official said that the Central Bank increased its discount rate by 2-1/2 per cent to 7-1/2 per cent. It is clear that the Central Bank has resisted external pressures well, considering that since February 1988, US interest rates have risen by three per cent to 9-1/2 per cent while UK rates have jumped by four per cent to 13 per cent.

#### Encouragement

Clearly, higher interest rates will encourage people to save, and to switch their deposits into the dinar from other, now less attractive, currencies. The local banks are able to pay between 7-1/2 per cent (for 30-day cus-

tomers deposits) and 8-1/2 per cent (for deposits with a life of more than six months). This compares favourably with rates of under six per cent in Germany and Switzerland, and is close to the higher rates available in dollars and sterling, especially considering exchange rate risks.

Consequently, it makes much more sense for people in Kuwait to keep their money in the KD. Indeed, there are signs that investors are switching out of foreign currencies and back into the dinar, Sheikh Ahmed said.

#### Significance

He added, this is the key significance of the interest rate rise in Kuwait. Initially, bank deposits might seem more attractive than stock market and real estate investment opportunities. But with the additional build up of liquidity in Kuwait, these investment vehicles will benefit in the longer term.

On the allegation by the Group of 10 industrialised countries that Arab banks including developing nations are high-risk for lending purposes, the official said that there is a wide range of risks among banks in the Arab world. He added: "I agree that I would classify some as high-risk for lending purposes." However, the banks in the Gulf states are better rated than Arab banks in general. And banks in Kuwait are especially well regarded. With the backing of the Central Bank and the government, Kuwaiti banks are considered to be A-rated by commentators worldwide. Sheikh Ahmed concluded.

## Iran seeks S. Korean help in post-war reconstruction

**SEOUL, Jan 27, (Reuters):** Iran expects to spend about \$200 billion on post-war reconstruction, offering huge potential contracts for South Korean companies, a top Iranian official said today.

Deputy Foreign Minister Javad Mansouri told a news conference it would cost roughly \$200 billion over the next 10 years to repair damage done to the gas, oil, petrochemical and transport industries during the long war with Iraq.

"In our new period of reconstruction, there is a huge potential for (South) Korean firms to participate," he said.

**Contract**  
South Korean building contractors kept offices open and contract workers in place in both Iran and Iraq during the eight-year war, servicing multi-million dollar projects.

Industry analysts in the Far East have said they expected Seoul to be more aggressive than competitors in bidding for new projects.

Last month, a visiting Iraqi minister asked South Korean companies to assist his country rebuild war-damaged industries. Mansouri was winding up a three-day visit during which he agreed with Seoul officials to exchange ambassadors for the first time. The two countries' missions had been headed by charges d'affaires.

Iran already has ambassador-level relations with communist North Korea, whose foreign minister recently visited Tehran. In response to a question, Mansouri said South Korea's foreign minister had also been invited.

"We enjoy very satisfactory co-operation with all parts of Korea," he added. "We welcome any help from any source."

## Peace accord will activate investment

**KUWAIT, Jan 27, (KUNA):** The board chairman and managing director of the Kuwait Foreign Trading and Contracting Investment Company (KFTCIC) Abdullah Qabandi stressed the importance of reaching a peace accord between Iraq and Iran.

Qabandi told a local daily today that such political detente would activate investment in local market and reconstruction, which by turn would help flourish economy in the region.

Regarding the best means to reinvigorate Kuwaiti economic sectors in the post-war era, Qabandi cited the importance of encouraging productive sectors, extending necessary facilities, increasing export and re-export, and establishing a financial company aimed at supporting foreign trade.

He said Kuwait's foreign investment policy as being founded on scientific bases and added in particular Kuwait's investment in British Petroleum which proved to be profitable during the last year.

## Oil prices expected to stabilise in first quarter

### Kuwait denies exceeding its OPEC output quota

**KUWAIT, Jan 27, (Reuters):** Kuwait's Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa has denied an Iranian report that his country was exceeding its oil production quota set by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

Sheikh Ali told a local daily in remarks published today Kuwait was producing its full quota of 1.036 million barrels daily without any excess.

OPEC last November agreed to limit oil production to 18.5 million barrels daily for the first half of this year to boost oil prices to an average \$18 a barrel. Middle East crude oils are now trading about \$2 below that level.

**Quotas**  
The Iranian news agency IRNA said on Wednesday three major Gulf Arab OPEC members — Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) — were violating their quotas.

Saudi Arabia has already denied the report and UAE President Sheikh Zaid Bin Sultan Al Nahayan on Thursday

reiterated his country's commitment to the OPEC accord. Sheikh Ali said he expected world oil prices, which have firmed about \$3 since last November, to remain at their current levels for the time being.

He said future price levels depended on whether all OPEC states stuck to their self-imposed output ceilings.

**Quota**  
Sheikh Ali said last week Kuwait was producing within its quota and would continue to do so as long as other OPEC members did.

Meanwhile, industry analysts said Middle East crude oil prices will stabilise around \$15 a barrel for the next two months, but weaken in the second quarter unless oil producers co-operate to control output.

Prices plummeted by 75 cents after talks between experts from OPEC (Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries) and non-OPEC oil producing nations on Thursday failed to result in specific proposals for output cuts.



Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa

OPEC and non-OPEC oil ministers will meet at an unspecified later date, OPEC Secretary-General Subroto said after the joint experts meeting.

"The market expected something more, therefore they were disappointed," said Yasuhiko Tashiro, chief economist for the Idemitsu Oil Company. The benchmark Mideast, from Dubai, dropped to around \$14.25 for March loading car-

goes on the freely traded Far Eastern market today, from \$15 in late trading on Thursday.

"Today the market's a bit soft but I expect a small recovery," said a trader for a major international oil company.

"The first-quarter cargo market will continue around \$15, but unless OPEC and non-OPEC producers take further action we forecast there will be a sluggish market in the second quarter."

**Output**  
Oil prices have gained about \$4 barrel since November when OPEC ministers agreed to cut output by 20 per cent in the first half of 1989.

Total production is estimated to have dropped to around 19 million barrels per day (BPD) from nearly 23 million in December.

But traders said OPEC needs the co-operation of non-OPEC producers to reduce output still further in the second quarter when demand is seasonally lower.

They said a two dollar drop in prices was likely unless produc-

tion is cut after the northern hemisphere winter demand season ends.

OPEC production of 19 million BPD in the second quarter will lead to a 500,000 to one million BPD build up in world stocks, said Masaru Kai, a deputy general manager at Nippon Oil Company.

**Prices**  
Kai predicted Mideast oil prices would average \$15 to 16 a barrel the first quarter, but fall to \$13 to 14 in the second quarter if OPEC output remained at 19 million BPD.

OPEC's target price is \$18 a barrel. The experts from OPEC and non-OPEC oil producing countries met separately on Wednesday and then jointly on Thursday to discuss possible co-operation to help curb world oil supply and buoy prices.

The non-OPEC countries which took part in the talks were Angola, China, Colombia, Egypt, Malaysia, Mexico and Oman, which together pump some eight million BPD.

## KIO-BP deal a judgement of error, says Saadoun

A WELL-KNOWN Kuwaiti economist described the involvement of the Kuwait Investment Office (KIO) in the purchase and re-sale of part of its stake in the British Petroleum (BP) as a major strategic mistake.

Head of Al Shaal Economic Consultants, Jassem Al Saadoun stressed that the deal is a political embarrassment and a judgement of error.

He strongly disputed the KIO claims that it has made about £380 million profit by selling 11.7 per cent of its 21.6 per cent stake in the BP to the same company last December. He said that the deal of buying stakes in the BP was a very high risk operation that should not have been done by government investments abroad. He questioned the KIO calculations describing them as "incorrect."

#### Criticism

He recalled the main criticism to the deal when it was first announced two years ago. He said that the deal did not represent any good opportunity



for achieving financial profits in the short run. Any big sale of the huge stake would have sharply brought the share prices down. He said that Kuwait's policy of diversifying its sources of incomes and its investments does not comply with making a huge deal in an oil company like the BP. Any more investments in oil sector would only increase the

risks on Kuwait's investment and income.

Moreover, he said the KIO could not use the BP for any petroleum profit like its expertise, researches or its distribution centres to benefit Kuwait oil. Neither could it interfere in the BP policy as this is totally rejected by the British government. The KIO office pledged not to influence BP's policy decisions.

#### Deal

Al Saadoun said that the deal manifested the KIO incapability after over 30 years of experience in the British market. The KIO failed to predict what impact a huge deal such as this could have on British policy. The deal was later referred to the Monopolies Commission. "The danger in this is that the KIO allowed for legal action to be sought against our foreign investments from a country like Bahrain with whom we have special relations," he said.

He added: "Our world-wide investments are now subjected to similar actions thus putting the Kuwaiti investments abroad in

continuous fear." Al Saadoun warned that this precedence may have dangerous consequences on Kuwait's investments overseas.

#### Profits

He added that in order to enlarge the profits from the deal, the KIO in a statement published in the Kuwaiti press last month, included profits on shares achieved in 1987 and anticipated those to be distributed for the 1988, while it simply forgot to tell us what profits it would have gained if it had put the amount used as a deposit in the banks. The KIO did that intentionally to increase the profits. He said that no company will ever consider that the cost of a share achieving a 10 per cent annual profit is nil after 10 years.

Substantiating his criticism of the deal with calculations, Al Saadoun said that the cost of each share was not less than 291.6 pence. If one considered that it was sold at 305 pence, the profit per share was only 13.4 pence and not 48.3 pence as claimed by the KIO.

## National Bank of Oman installs NCR ATMs

OMAN'S largest bank, the National Bank of Oman has installed three Automatic Teller Machines (ATM) supplied by NCR in the capital area.

They have also ordered additional equipment to increase their number of ATMs to provide this service to all regions of the sultanate.

Due to go "on-line" at the end of February '89, the NCR 5084 ATMs will provide the bank's customers with instant cash withdrawal facilities 24 hours a day, every day of the year.

Mehboob A. Khan, executive-in-charge, management services division, said our 49 branches in the sultanate are networked with two in Egypt, and one in Abu Dhabi.

"We selected NCR's 5084 ATM as the best product to meet our requirements following a close examination of the equipment on the market today, and on the strength of the excellent service we have received from NCR since 1974."

## World Business Summary

### Hyundai group to set up joint venture with Moscow

**SEOUL, Jan 27, (AP):** The Hyundai group will set up a 50-50 joint venture trading and development company with the Soviet Chamber of Commerce in April, Hyundai officials said today. South Korea has been trying to improve relations with the Soviet Union and other communist countries to expand its trading base and ease its confrontation with communist North Korea. South Korea does not have diplomatic relations yet with any communist nation. The new company, initially capitalised at \$10 million, is being established under a letter of intent exchanged between the South Korean business conglomerate and the Soviet Chamber of Commerce. The letter was exchanged earlier this week when the Soviet chamber's deputy chairman, Vladimir Golanov, visited South Korea, officials said. The proposed company, the first joint venture between the two countries, plans to build a coastal power station and develop petroleum gas and produce pulp in Siberia, among other projects, they said. The firm's head office will be in Seoul with a branch in Moscow, and Soviet directors for the joint venture will be stationed in Seoul, the Hyundai officials said. The proposed company also will handle imports of Soviet products such as lumber and industrial raw materials and exports of various Korean products to the Soviet Union. The Soviet Chamber of Commerce has agreed with the state-run Korea Trade Promotion Corp. to open trade offices in each other's capitals in two months to seek direct trade between the two countries.

### US oil imports soon may top 50pc, says government

**WASHINGTON, Jan 27, (AP):** The United States likely will rely on foreign suppliers for more than half its oil needs by 1994, but the imports would not necessarily make the nation more vulnerable to a supply crisis, the government said. The Energy Information Administration said yesterday in a forecast to the year 2000 that more imports will be needed as oil consumption increases and domestic production falls. Oil import last year rose to a daily rate of 7.1 million barrels, or 37 per cent of total supplies, and by 1994 the nation may be buying 9.9 million barrels a day from abroad, or the equivalent of 59 per cent of supplies, the agency said. The highest dependence on record was in 1977, when 46 per cent of oil supplies were imported. Many oil industry officials, particularly from smaller, independent producers hurt most by sharp drops in world oil prices since 1986, have urged President George Bush to take action to limit the growth in oil imports. They contend that further harm to the domestic industry would weaken national security. The Energy Information Administration report said that despite the trend toward rising imports, "there is no clear and simple answer" to whether the nation was becoming more vulnerable to potential disruptions of world oil supplies. It said US energy security was being preserved partly by a more competitive global energy market and by the growth in national stockpiles of oil. The existence of substantial oil stockpiles in the United States, Japan, West Germany and other import-dependent nations "should even be adequate to discourage some countries from attempting to use such a disruption to achieve political objectives," the report said. The report also said oil prices will move erratically for several years as the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries struggles to restrain its production. Prices are likely to remain near current levels at least until 1990, then begin moving gradually higher. By 1994 the world oil price is likely to be \$18.30 per barrel, rising to \$28 by the end of the century. The current price is about \$15 a barrel.

### Norwegian premier seeks oil producer-consumer dialogue

**DAVOS, Switzerland, Jan 27, (Reuters):** Energy producers and consumers need to open a dialogue to find ways to stabilise oil prices, Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland said today. She told journalists that wild fluctuations in oil prices in recent years had been dangerous for the world economy. She acknowledged that such important countries as the United States and Britain were committed to free trade in oil, but said: "More countries are aware of the need for some dialogue towards more stable oil price levels — not too high and not too low." Brundtland, who leads a minority Social Democratic government, said Norway was willing to host a producer-consumer meeting to discuss ideas on how to keep prices steady. But she declined to give any details of what mechanisms she had in mind. "At this time, I don't want to antagonise anyone," she said. Brundtland said many countries had expressed an interest in her idea but she had not had contact yet with the new Bush administration. Norway, a major oil producer from fields in the North Sea, has co-operated with the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries' (OPEC) efforts to reduce output and reverse the oil price slides in 1986 and again last year. Brundtland is in Davos for the world economic forum, a gathering of about 1,000 top business people and government officials held each year in this Alpine ski resort. In her keynote address on Thursday she called for a global economic summit to find ways to stimulate growth and speed development in the Third World while avoiding further damage to the environment. At her news conference, Brundtland said she saw signs other countries including both the United States and the Soviet Union under Mikhail Gorbachev were now ready to take steps towards greater care for the environment. "Both Presidents Bush and Gorbachev have touched on it in the last months. And (British Prime Minister) Margaret Thatcher has recently changed her position and her image on the environment..." "A global economic summit is something that will be coming, and not in the very far future," she said.

### France, Nigeria agree funding for major steel project

**LAGOS, Jan 27, (Reuters):** Construction work stalled for months at the site of Africa's biggest steel plant could resume soon following an agreement on funding between France and Nigeria, a Nigerian minister said yesterday. "We have discussed details of covering sums outstanding to contractors and arrangements for future work," Minister of Mines, Power and Steel Bunu Sheriff Musa told reporters. He said the aim now was to meet a new 1991 completion date for the \$3 billion first phase of the Soviet-designed Ajakuta steel project, which was originally set for 1988. It was pushed back because of financing difficulties. Details of the deal, signed in Lagos last Friday, would be announced later by the Office of Budget and Planning, Musa said. French embassy officials here declined to comment on the accord, which followed negotiations between Nigeria, the French export credit agency Coface, and Dumez and Fougere, two French firms which called a halt to most of their on-site last year because they had not been paid. The project was conceived in the oil-rich 1970s as the heart of an integrated Nigerian steel industry requiring new railways, river dredging and coal and iron ore mines to feed 440 industrial units on a 16 sq km (10 sq mile) site beside the River Niger, 500 km (330 miles) northeast of Lagos. Funds dried up as oil revenues collapsed in the early 1980s, and Nigeria's Western creditors, led by the World Bank, advised against going ahead with such an ambitious project. A report commissioned by the World Bank from Canadian consultants Hatch Associates is due to be released soon and it is expected to recommend retrenchment on the project. But President Ibrahim Babangida has re-affirmed Nigeria's commitment to Ajakuta, saying delays caused by problems with meeting commitments for the building work were only temporary. Soviet Ambassador Yuri Koupiakov told Reuters yesterday that Moscow endorsed the Nigerian government's determination to go ahead with the project. "Our work on the first phase is 86 per cent complete, and we are committed to going on to completion," he said, adding that Moscow had pledged the credit necessary for the project.

## Price stability should continue this year, says economist

### Japan likely to sidestep inflation worries in '89

**TOKYO, Jan 27, (Reuters):** Despite snappy economic growth, driven by brisk consumer spending, Japan should be able to sidestep inflation worries for at least another year, economists say.

Lower costs of imports are dampening domestic prices, keeping a heavy lid on inflation, they said.

Many economists forecast Japan's consumer prices to hold below two per cent this year, a level that presents no threat to the economy.

"If consumer prices were clim-

bing three or four per cent, we would have problems. But with prices going up between only one to two per cent this year, there is no need for worry," said chief economist Toshiaki Kakimoto at Sumitomo Bank.

Kakimoto sees consumer prices gaining 1.6 per cent in 1989, up only slightly from 1988's 0.7 per cent. Forecasts by other economists ranged between 1.4 and 1.9 per cent.

The government announced the 1988 figure today. "Stability of prices should continue this year," said eco-

nomist Shigeru Saito of Daiwa Securities Research Institute. The new consumption tax will have a big impact on prices, but that will be just temporary and not cause any worries, he said.

The across-the-board three per cent consumption tax on all goods will go into effect from April 1.

Kakimoto estimates the tax will boost consumer prices in 1989 by 1.1 percentage points.

"The three-per cent consumption tax at first looks like it would push consumer prices up the same three per cent, but actually

it will not, as industry is unlikely to pass that whole increase on."

Heavy corporate investment in plants and machinery for the past year or so has been improving production efficiency and lowering costs, Kakimoto said.

Economists also said that when the consumption tax went into effect, the current high luxury taxes on cars, jewellery and other goods as well as indirect taxes would be abolished and help offset the three per cent tax.

Another impact on prices will be higher wages, economists said. Although the yearly labour

talks around April may lead to wage hikes of five per cent or so, that increase is unlikely to feed back into consumer prices as manufacturers should absorb some of those costs, they said.

"If domestic prices start to rise, imports will come in and cool them down," Kakimoto said.

The strong yen has been keeping prices of Japan's mostly dollar-based imports low and that should continue for the time being, said Susumu Kato, economists at County Natwest Securities, Japan.







International Bond Highlights

**LONDON:** Trusthouse Forte PLC is issuing a 100 min stg Eurobond due Feb 22, 1986 paying 10-3/4 pct and priced at 100-3/4 pct, lead manager Union Bank of Switzerland (Securities) Ltd said. (ECONOMIST 1523)

**London:** NEC Corp. set an indicated coupon of 4-1/2 pct on a 500 min dir. four year, equity warrant Eurobond, lead manager Nomura International Ltd said. (ECONOMIST 1523)

**London:** Nomura Europe NV has established a 200 min dir multi-currency Euro-commercial paper programme, sole dealer Nomura International Ltd said. (ECONOMIST 1523)

**London:** Sumitomo International Finance Australia Ltd is issuing a 100 min dir Eurobond due Feb 8, 1983 paying 9-3/4 pct and priced at 101.60 pct, lead manager Sumitomo Finance International Ltd said. (ECONOMIST 1523)

**Tokyo:** Tanabe Seiyaku Co. Ltd will issue two 15 billion yen convertible bonds on the domestic market, the company said. Coupon and conversion price for the par-priced six and eight-year bonds will be set in early February. (ECONOMIST 1523)

**Davos:** Argentine presidential candidate Eduardo Angeloz said his country would press for a cut in interest rates it pay on its foreign debt if he wins the May election. (ECONOMIST 1523)

**Zurich:** Union Bank of Switzerland said it will start trading Swiss franc foreign bonds and notes in the grey market from Feb 1. (ECONOMIST 1523)

**Tokyo:** Several debtor nations have talked with Japan about making use of the so-called Miyazawa Debt Scheme and Mexico seems the most serious, Japanese government officials said. (ECONOMIST 1523)

Interbank Rates

CALL	ONE MONTH	THREE MONTHS
LDN 13-1/8 12-7/8	13-1/8 13	13-1/8 12-15/16
FFY 5.00/10	5.60/70	5.75/85
PAR 8-7/16 9/16	8-5/8 3/4	8-3/4 7/8
ZUR 4-5/8 4-5/8	5-1/4 5-1/2	5-1/2 5-3/4
BUR 6-7/8	7-7/16 9/16	7-3/4 7/8
ROM 11-3/8 11-7/8	12-1/8 12-5/8	12-1/4 12-3/4
AMS 6.06/18	6.00/10	6.12/22
TOK 5.28/32 30/32	4-13/32 15/32	4-18/32 20/32
ECU 7.75 8.00	8.00 8.12	8.25 8.37

Interest Rates

Following are the average KD interest rates of local interbank transactions as reported by participants to Central Bank of Kuwait yesterday.

Period	Bid	Offered
1 month	7-1/16	7-9/16
3 months	7-1/2	8
6 months	7-5/8	8-1/8
1 year	7-13/16	8-5/16

BOMBAY

PR. CLOSE	OPEN	CLOSE	GLINDIA	76	79	77	NICO	595	590	610
ACC 323	328	323.50	GNFC	48	48.75	48.75	MUKAM	92	92	91.50
ASIA PAINT 223.75	223	220	GRASIM	87.50	89	91	NOCIL	790	795	815
BAJAJ AUTO 410	411.25	412.50	GSFC	137.50	145	140	ORWAY	26	26	25.50
SAR. RAYON 290	290	290	HIND LEVER	71.50	73	72	PELCO	22	22	23
BON. DYING 126	126	125	HINDALCO	180	185	187	PFIZER	58	58	59.50
BR. ROND 116.50	117	118	WINDMOTOR	107.50	112.50	110	RAYON	46	46	46.50
BSSE INDEX 1445	1420	1445	IND ORG	44	44.50	43.50	RELIANCE	132	135	137.50
CENTURYSPG 320	312.50	320	INDRAGON	83.50	84	84	SIEMENS	86	86	84
COLGATE 320	312.50	320	INDROL	297.50	300	295	SPIC	46	46	46
DEEPAKPERT 37	36.50	37	ITC	46	46	48	STIRLIS	240	260	250
EL. HOTEL 57.50	55	57	JKSINTH	85	85	85	TATA PUR	358	380	375
ESKAYEF 138.75	141.25	138.75	L & T	118	119	118	TATACHEN	112.50	111	113.50
ESSAR 23	23	23	MAHINDRA	88	92	89	TELCO	755	750	762.50
GAR. POLY 81.25	81.25	83.75	MASTERSHR	15.75	15.75	16	TISCO	1211	1246.5	1245
GE. SHIP 38.65	38.85	38.50	NATHER PL	60	57	59.50	VOLTAS	540	500	550

FRANKFURT

STOCK	LAST PR. CLSE
AEG	198.2 199.5
ALIANZ VR	1867.0 1862.0
BADENWER	182.5 185.5
BASF	291.9 286.5
BAYER	307.2 301.0
BAYER NYF	377.5 375.0
BAYER VER	384.5 385.0
BBC	377.5 379.0
BIF	422.0 420.0
BHW	509.0 508.0
COMMERZB	252.8 267.9
COMIT GUM	269.5 270.0
DATNER BEN	684.5 682.0
DEUTSC BNK	537.0 537.0
DLW	491.0 476.5
DRESNER B	311.0 308.0
DT BAROCK	166.0 164.5
FAZ INDEX	563.48 559.25
FELDMUEHL	311.0 307.5
GOLDSCHEID	396.0 395.0
HANSEER	464.0 464.0
HOFERST AD	207.0 200.0
HORTEN	242.5 236.0
MUSSEL HLD	461.0 457.5
KALI SALZ	201.5 200.0
KARSTADT	445.0 448.5
KALPHOF	423.5 420.0
KLOECK H	175.0 159.5
KLOECK W	163.5 147.5
LINDE	785.0 786.0
LUFTHANSA	174.5 166.0
MAN	254.0 252.5
MANHESMAN	215.0 210.0
MERCEDES	552.5 551.5
NETALGOS	408.0 402.0
NIDORFF PF	339.0 338.0
KORASKI NY	39.50 38.50
PHILIP KON	671.0 675.0
PORSCHE	655.0 659.5
PREUSSAG	226.0 236.5
PW	271.5 270.5
RHEINMETAL	433.0 425.0
RUE	251.2 249.0
RUE P	226.0 225.0
SALAMANDER	335.0 341.0
SCHERING	613.5 609.2
SEL	271.2 275.5
SIEMENS	538.4 531.0
THYSEN	212.0 207.8
VARTA	342.0 345.0
VERA	282.0 281.0
VEW	170.2 172.0
VOLKSWAGEN	323.5 321.5

HONG KONG

STOCK	LAST PR. CLSE
C H TUNNEL	15.30 15.20
CHUNG K	9.35 9.30
CHINA GAS	18.60 18.50
CHINA L-P	14.60 14.50
CHINA MTR	24.90 24.80
COSMO PROP	3.80 3.85
EVERGLO IND	3.40 3.35
FAR EAST C	.91 .91
GEN ORIENT	0 44.00
H & DEVELOP	9.50 9.45
H S INDEX	956.95 910.57
HANG LUNG	6.00 5.80
HANG SENG	32.50 31.75
HAW PAR BR	11.60 11.60
HK ELEC CO	7.45 7.40
HK KALCOON	10.10 9.85
HK KOALCO	10.10 10.30
HK SHAN BK	6.95 6.75
HK SHAN HT	6.30 6.30
HK TELE CO	5.35 5.35
HUTCH WHAM	9.70 9.45
IND EQ PAC	10.80 10.80
JARDINE H	17.70 17.20
KONLON M	9.25 9.10
NEW WORLD	14.30 13.90
PAUL Y CON	1.51 1.52
REALTY DEV	7.50 7.40
S H K CO	2.32 2.27
S H K PROP	13.90 13.60
SINE DARY	2.50 2.47
STELUX MFG	2.82 2.85
SVIRE PAC	20.60 20.20
T V B CO	1.32 1.29
TAT CHEUNG	4.30 4.25
UNION BANK	1.62 1.61
WOCK HAD	0 7.25
WOCK HAT	0 1.15
WORLD INTL	4.67 4.60

Tokyo Stock Market Report

**TOKYO STOCKS BROADLY HIGHER, AT NEW RECORD CLOSE**

TOKYO, JAN 27, REUTER - SHARE PRICES ROSE TO A RECORD CLOSE, THE THIRD THIS WEEK, IN BROAD-BASED, ACTIVE TRADE AS SENTIMENT WAS BOOSTED BY A THIRD STRAIGHT NEW POST-CRASH HIGH ON WALL STREET OVERNIGHT, BROKERS SAID.

"WALL STREET WAS UP AND THIS IS PSYCHOLOGICALLY MORE IMPORTANT TO THE MARKET THAN THE STRONGER DOLLAR," SAID TADAOKI UEHARA, DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER OF NIKKO SECURITIES CO LTD.

THE NIKKEI 225 INDEX CLIMBED 32.32 POINTS, OR 0.43 PCT, TO A RECORD CLOSE OF 31,646.13. IT WAS UP 475.75 POINTS, OR 1.52 PCT, ON THE WEEK.

THE NIKKEI LOST 55.98 POINTS ON THURSDAY.

THE PREVIOUS RECORD CLOSE OF 31,567.79 WAS ON WEDNESDAY.

THE NIKKEI ALSO HIT A NEW TRADED HIGH OF 31,683.45 IN EARLY AFTERNOON TRADE, SURPASSING THE PREVIOUS RECORD OF 31,663.91 REACHED ON JANUARY 25.

THE FIRST SECTION INDEX, OR TOPIX, ROSE 11.36 POINTS TO A NEW RECORD CLOSE OF 2,469.45. THE PREVIOUS RECORD, SET ON JANUARY 25, WAS 2,462.99. IT SLIPPED 4.90 POINTS ON THURSDAY.

RISES LED FALLS BY 1.7 TO ONE WITH 594 ISSUES HIGHER, 348 LOWER AND 144 UNCHANGED.

TURNOVER WAS A STRONG 1.1 BILLION SHARES, UP FROM THURSDAY'S 900 MLN.

TODAY'S BIGGEST GAINERS WERE AIRLINE, RETAIL, ELECTRICAL, RUBBER, AUTO, CREDIT/LEASE, BANK, RAILWAY/BUS, PRECISION INSTRUMENT AND PHARMACEUTICAL SHARES.

SECTORS ON THE LOSING SIDE WERE SECURITIES, OIL, SHIPBUILDING, SHIPPING, ELECTRIC POWER, NON-LIFE INSURANCE, PULP/PAPER AND TEXTILE ISSUES.

ALSO POSITIVE WAS A FALL IN U.S. CRUDE OIL PRICES AFTER THURSDAY'S MEETING OF OPEC/NON-OPEC OIL PRODUCERS RESULTED IN NO SPECIFIC AGREEMENT ON PRODUCTION CUTS.

**Hong Kong Market Report**

HONG KONG, JAN 27, REUTER - STRONG BULLISH SENTIMENT PUSHED HONG KONG STOCKS TO THEIR SEVENTH POST-CRASH HIGH OF 1989, ANALYSTS SAID.

THEY SAID STRONG FINISHES IN TOKYO AND NEW YORK WERE THE CATALYST FOR THE BOURSE TO BREAK OUT OF SIX DAYS OF STAGNATION TO HAVE THE BIGGEST ONE-DAY GAIN OF THE YEAR IN HEAVY TRADING.

THE HANG SENG INDEX CLOSED 46.58 HIGHER AT 2,956.95. THE BROAD-BASED HONG KONG INDEX ROSE 30.19 TO 1,948.10.

TURNOVER WAS 1.86 BILLION H.K. DOLLARS, AGAINST 1.22 BILLION ON THURSDAY.

THE HANG SENG INDEX HAS RISEN 269.51, OR 10 PCT, IN 1989.

AMMAN

As of 25.1.89	OPNG	CLSE
ALA-ADDIN COMPANY	1.77	1.82
ARAB ALUMINUM IND.	2.07	2.10
ARAB BANK	144.0	144.5
ARAB CHEMICAL DTR	4.35	4.40
ARAB FINANCE CORP.	2.44	2.41
ARAB INSURANCE	1.05	1.04
ARAB INT. INV/TRADE	0.69	0.66
ARAB INT. UNION INS	1.21	1.25
ARAB INTER. HOTELS	0.69	0.72
ARAB JOR/INVST/BK	2.50	2.45
ARAB PAPER CON/TRA	0.37	0.37
ARAB PHARMA. MANF.	2.43	2.49
ARAB PHARMA/CHEM	0.76	0.75
ARAB POTASH CO.	---	---
ARABIAN SEAS INS.	1.65	1.65
BANK OF JORDAN	16.10	16.00
BELGIUM INSURANCE	1.00	0.95
CAIRO AMMAN BANK	30.00	30.00
CONFECT/CHOCOLATE	1.05	1.25
DAR AL SHAAS PRESS	0.64	0.63
DAR ALADMA DV/INV.	2.36	2.37
DARCO/INVEST/HOUS.	0.87	0.84
FINANCE/CREDIT/COF	0.65	0.68
GARAGE OWNERS OFF	4.60	4.55
GENERAL INSURANCE	2.39	2.43
GENERAL INVESTMENT	1.34	1.30
GENERAL MINING.	1.50	1.42
HINCH MINERALS	0.75	0.75
HOLY LAND INS.	1.44	1.44
IND./MATCH JEMCO	0.72	0.72
INDSTR. DEVLPT BHK	1.62	1.63
INDSTR./COMM/VAIR	1.64	1.67
INDUSTRIAL INVEST.	0.75	0.75
INTERN. CON/INV	0.13	0.13
IRBID ELECTRICITY	0.92	0.90
ISLAMIC INV. HOUSE	0.64	0.64
ITHEMED/PETRI/CH	1.74	1.75
J. TOURISM COMPLEX	0.79	0.80
JORDANIAN INS.	1.26	1.29
JOR TOBACCO/CIGARET	20.00	19.50
JOR CERAMIC FACTOR	1.75	1.78
JOR EAGLE INS.	25.01	25.05
JOR ELECTRIC POWER	1.76	1.75
JOR FINANCE HOUSE	1.20	1.22
JOR GLASS INDUSTRY	1.10	1.08
JOR HOTEL TOURISM	2.30	2.30
JOR INDUSTRY CHEM.	3.12	3.02
JOR INS AND FIN.	1.20	1.20
JOR LEASING CORP.	0.71	0.75
JOR LIN BRICK	0.25	0.25
JOR MANAG/CONSULT	0.50	0.50
JOR NATIONAL BANK	2.67	2.66
JOR PAPER CARBONDS	5.60	5.50
JOR PROSPHATE MINS	4.00	4.15
JOR PIPES MANUFACT	1.67	1.70
JOR PRESS/PUBLISHER	1.90	1.90
JOR PRINTING/PACK.	4.25	4.40
JOR ROCK WOOL IND.	1.05	1.10
JOR SECURIT CORP.	1.12	1.11
JOR SELPHO CHEM.	2.94	2.94
JOR WOOD INDUSTRY	1.63	1.63
JOR WORSTED MLL	5.00	5.00
JOR. KUWAIT AGR	0.94	0.91
JOR. PETROLIUM REF	8.66	8.67
JOR. FRENCH INS.	5.45	5.45
JOR. INV. FIN. CORP	2.55	2.55
JORDANIAN GULF REAL	0.44	0.42
JORDAN DAIY	1.06	1.05
JORDAN GULF BANK	1.23	1.23
JORDAN GULF INS.	0.94	0.95
JORDAN INSURANCE	4.51	4.28
JORDAN ISLAMIC BHK	1.84	1.90
JORDAN KUWAIT BANK	1.45	1.42
JORDAN TANNING	2.15	2.15
LIVESTOCK/POULTRY	0.74	0.71
MACH/RENT/PAINT	0.81	0.80
NAS INDUSTRIES	0.69	0.73
NID EAST EXCHANGE	1.14	1.13
NIDDEL EAST HOTEL	0.80	0.80
NIDDEL EAST INS	1.40	1.47
MINERALS RESEARCH	0.74	0.75
NAT. FIN. INVEST CO	2.10	2.09
NAT/CABLE/WIRE/INF	1.33	1.33
NATIONAL AHLIA INS	1.38	1.38
NATIONAL INDUSTRY	0.46	0.45
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO	0.98	0.98
NATIONAL STEEL	3.00	2.97
ORIENT DRY BATTERY	0.25	0.28
PETRA BANK	2.49	2.55
PETRA JOR. INS.	0.35	0.35
PHILADELPHIA INS.	1.05	1.10
RAFA INDUSTRIAL	0.94	0.98
REAL ESTATE INV.	0.67	0.67
SHIPPING LINES	0.97	0.97
SPINNING WEAVING	1.06	1.08
THE HOUSING BANK	1.91	1.91
UNITED INSURANCE	1.25	1.20
UNIVERSAL CHEM. IND	3.28	3.25
UNIVERSAL INS.	0.73	0.70
WOOLEN INDUSTRIES	0.85	0.86
YARMOUK INSURANCE	1.37	1.38

PHILIPPINES MAKATI

COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL	SECTOR	BUY	SELL	OPEN	CL-A	67.00	67.50	68.00
STOCK	BUY	SELL	OPEN	CL-A	.50	.51	.51	.51
AC-A	13.50	13.75	13.75	LC-B	.51	.52	.52	.52
AMS	2.75	2.80	2.75	PK-A	.59	.60	.60	.60
GLO	32.50	33.00	32.50	PK-B	.40	.41	.41	.40
PLDT	252.50	255.00	252.50	OIL SECTOR	---	---	---	---
KPSI-A	2.80	2.85	2.85	BP-A	.015	.016	.015	.015
KPSI-B	3.20	3.50	---	BP-B	.016	.017	.016	.016
SMC-A	150.00	151.00	150.00	LRC-A	.0036	.0038	.0036	.0036
SMC-B	236.00	---	236.00	LRC-B	.0036	.0038	.0036	.0036
MINING SECTOR	---	---	---	OPW-A	.039	.04	.04	.04
APX-A	.022	.023	---	OPW-B	.011	.041	.041	.041
APX-B	.022	.024	---	OW-A	.03	.031	.031	.031
AT-A	37.00	37.50	36.50	OW-B	.031	.032	.031	.031

Makati Stock Market Report

OFFICIAL INFORMATION	SECTOR	SHARES	VALUE	AVERAGES	CHANGES
COMM-IND	467,790	8,631,212.50	969.07	3.33	UP
MINING	65,536,500	7,625,525	4,820.10	15.56	DN
LOI	308,550,000	9,320,100	5.872	0.044	DN
TOTAL	374,594,290	25,574,837.50	842.75	0.52	UP

PHILIPPINES MANILA

COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL
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## Government may need to spend \$50-100b to shore up industry

## Deposits in savings banks are safe: Bush

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27. (Agencies): President Bush, in his first White House news conference, assured the American people today that their deposits in financially-troubled savings banks were safe.

"Those deposits are backed by the full faith and credit of the US government and they are sound, they are dollar-good," Bush said, wrapping up his first week as president. "I just wanted to assure the American people about that."

**Pledge**  
Large numbers of the country's savings banks have gone bankrupt in recent years and experts say the government may need to spend \$50-100 billion to shore up the industry.

Bush, hoarse because of a cold, refused to commit himself on a Treasury proposal to assess a fee on deposits in savings banks to provide money to beef up the industry.

The proposal, which critics say would violate Bush's pledge against new taxes, has stirred a

furore around the country. Bush said the controversial suggestion was "only a facet — a possible facet" and had not even reached his desk.

In the wide-ranging news conference, Bush repeated his opposition to increased taxes and said he wanted to hold to that promise throughout his first term in office.

Many critics have said he must raise taxes in order to bring down the huge US budget deficit, or to tackle the burgeoning thrift crisis.

Bush was asked if his "read my lips — no new taxes" pledge was a one-year, two-year or four-year promise.

"I'd like it to be a four-year pledge," he said.

**Stance**  
Bush said nothing had occurred in the White House in the past few days to change his mind on his anti-tax stance.

The president tried to dampen speculation that he is at odds over economic policy with Federal Reserve Board chair-

man Alan Greenspan — often called the second most powerful man in the United States.

"I don't think I'm far apart from chairman Greenspan at all," he said. "He's more concerned about inflationary pressures than I am right now, but basically ... we're very close together."

Greenspan told lawmakers earlier this week that the Fed might have to raise interest rates later this year if excessive economic growth created the threat of new inflation.

Bush, in an interview with a selected group of reporters, said he would be concerned about central bank policies that choked growth.

Meanwhile, J. Boskin, the choice of President George Bush as his chief economic adviser, told Congress yesterday that he was concerned but not alarmed at the United States having become a debtor country.

He said he believed it had occurred only last year, and not in 1984 or 1985 as some have

contended. He gave no figures.

"What happens when we have a trillion dollars of international debt?" asked Sen. Donald W. Riegle Jr., chairman of the Senate Banking Committee. "Or two trillion or three trillion?"

Boskin was answering questions from the committee before it votes on confirming him as chairman of the President's Council of Economic Advisers. Before the hearing, he had written in reply to a question from Sen. Phil Gramm:

**Contribution**  
"Foreign investment makes an important contribution to the US economy. By helping to build productive plant and equipment in the United States, foreign investment contributes to current and future increases in jobs, productivity and growth."

He suggested that the time may come when benefits from foreign investment in his country would be outweighed by the cost to Americans.

Riegle said the trillion-dollar level could be reached early in the

1990s. He did not give a current figure.

Others have estimated that total foreign assets of Americans are worth \$400 billion less than foreign assets owned by Americans. Some experts find that figure too high, arguing that the price of many US investments abroad should be based on their much higher value today, and not on what Americans paid for them just after World War II.

**Trend**  
"I'm concerned, I'm not alarmed," Boskin said.

He said he agreed with Riegle that "we ought to get off this trend line."

Money now coming into the United States from abroad as loans and investments amounts to some \$10 billion a month.

Under questioning from Riegle, Boskin estimated that about 25 per cent of it comes to pay for factories, equipment and real estate and the rest is money borrowed by the US government or private companies.

## London stock market shoots through 2,000 FTSE index

LONDON, Jan. 27. (Reuters): Frantic trading took the London Stock Market's FTSE index of 100 leading shares above 2,000 points today for the first time since the October 1987 crash.

The "Footsie" closed up 46.1 on the day at 2,005.9. It has risen 212 points or 11.8 per cent since the start of the year.

Dealers said that the market, which last year lagged Wall Street, Tokyo and continental European bourses in rebounding from the crash, was ripe for a rise. Better-than-expected British balance of payments figures provided the catalyst for today's surge.

**Funds**  
Big investment funds piled in to buy stock and the volume traded rose to a record for one day above one billion shares.

"Institutions are weighed down with cash and the market has been clearly undervalued throughout 1988. All that was needed was a goad to set it off and the trade figures provided that."

The big drag on the London market has been Britain's economy.

Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson cut taxes last spr-

ing and also, in line with finance ministers in other industrial nations, kept interest rates low.

The belief was that cheap money was needed to fire up economic activity, in case the loss of confidence after the crash resulted in a global slump.

**Boom**  
But British consumers, with money in their pockets and credit easy to get, went on a spending boom, driving up inflation and also plunging the nation's trade deep in the red.

Their appetite for imported goods pushed the current account deficit for 1988 to a record £14.27 billion (\$25.25 billion), government figures today showed.

Lawson hiked interest rates from 7.5 per cent in early summer by stages to a present high at 13 per cent to cool the boom.

At that put a dampener on London stocks.

The stock market began to look more lively around New Year on a hunch among investors, particularly big investment funds, that Lawson's medicine might be working and that 13 per cent was the top limit on interest rates.

A decline in the growth of bank and home loan lending was among factors that suggested that British consumers had begun to spend less vigorously.

Today's trade figures, which sent the "Footsie" up above 2,000, seemed to confirm that view.

**Narrowed**  
The annual 1988 deficit may have been a record. But figures also showed that the gap narrowed in December — the monthly deficit at £1.26 billion (\$2.23 billion) was down on November's £1.47 billion (\$2.6 billion).

"Markets have greeted the figures as very good indeed," said Ian Harwood, an economist at Warburg Securities.

"The markets were worried that if another rogue figure was published it would knock on the head interest rate expectations generated by recent indications that consumers are starting to pull in their horns," Harwood said.

But Roger Bootle, chief British economist at brokerage Greenwell Montague gilt edged, said interest rates may have peaked but that he would not completely rule out another rise.

## US currency and stock prices soar

## Dollar defies central bank intervention

LONDON, Jan. 27. (Reuters): The dollar defied two bouts of central bank intervention against it today and shot higher, resuming a rally begun at new year which threatens inflation in many nations around the globe.

**Deposits**  
Stock markets were surging, too. On Wall Street at New York's midday the Dow Jones industrial average was up 35 at 2,326.07 after a 25-point gain yesterday. The Dow has not been above 2,300 since the crash of autumn 1987.

London's FTSE index of 100 British blue chips broke above

2,000 for the first time since the crash. Tokyo was at a new all-time high.

A flow of speculative money into dollars, lured by high US interest rates which are in place to check American inflation and by the rising New York Stock Market, took the US currency to touch a day's high at 1.86 West German marks.

It closed in Europe at 1.8580 marks and 129.33 yen, up from Thursday's 1.8435 and 128.10 even after a dozen central banks have dumped dollars on the market.

European banks sold in

Europe's morning. When New York trading began they came back again with the US Federal Reserve and the Bank of Canada joining in.

It was the fifth time in two weeks that the banks had tried to check the dollar's advance which, by putting up import bills in many nations, threatens to fuel world inflation.

Even the Bank of Portugal sold \$10 million.

"Either the central banks did not sell much or the market is really ready to buy. I think the latter is more likely," said Bank Fuer Gemeinwirtschaft currency

adviser Simone Klaus.

Latest US economic data, showing that expansion eased slightly in the final three months of 1988, failed to check the flow of money to the dollar.

It was a hectic day in other markets, too. Gold dropped below \$400 an ounce for the first time since early October and closed in London at \$399.25.

While governments were worried about inflation, investors seemed to think that dollar assets and shares were still a better bet than gold — the usual anti-inflationary hedge. Weaker oil prices also made

investors more relaxed about inflation. North Sea Brent Blend, the most widely traded crude oil, was down about 35 cents around \$16.35 a barrel after official from OPEC and Third World exporters from outside the group made scant apparent progress on agreeing new output cuts.

Britain's huge mature fields are beyond their peak and production has been falling since a 1985 peak of around 2.5 million BPD. Last year production in Western Europe's largest oil producer was particularly low due to several accidents.

## Rally threatens higher interest rates world-wide

## Dollar strength poses dilemma for industrial nations

LONDON, Jan. 27. (Reuters): The dollar's irrepressible new year rally has boxed industrial nations into a policy dilemma, threatening higher interest rates world-wide and posing a serious challenge to the goal of stable exchange rates.

Economists say financial leaders from the Group of Seven Western powers, due to meet in Washington next week, will be hard pushed to avoid the conclusion that their range of policy options is small and the risk of higher interest rates great.

"It is a box the Group of Seven nations can't talk themselves out of," said Gerald Holtham, chief international economist at London brokers Shearson Lehman Hutton.

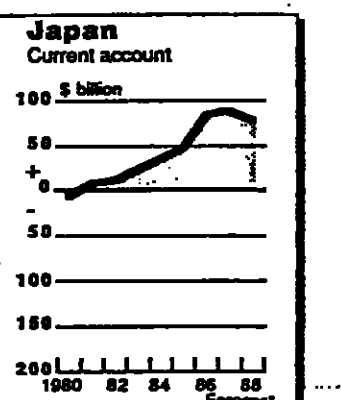
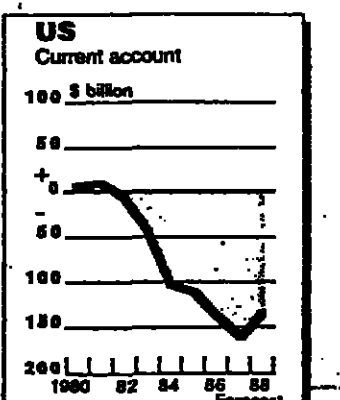
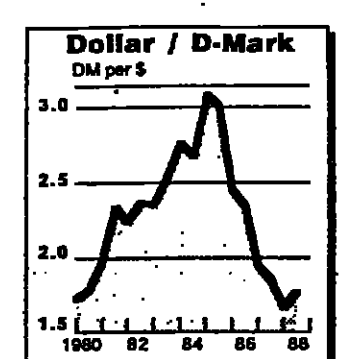
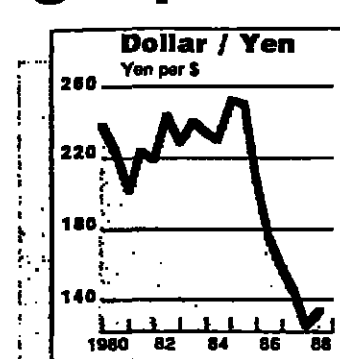
**Beaten back**

The US currency's surge, beaten back but far from reversed after five bouts of co-ordinated central bank dollar sales in the past 14 days, puts to the test the Group of Seven's commitment to exchange rate stability agreed in Paris in February, 1987.

Since what became known as the "Louvre accord", the United States, Japan, West Germany, France, Britain, Canada and Italy have pegged the dollar within bands against major currencies.

But as it bumps up against what is widely thought to be an unpublicised ceiling agreed against the West German mark, the scope for policy change is limited and economists say the only practical way out may be to buy time through intervention.

The ideal solution would be for the Bush administration to



be less expansionary in 1989 and he explicitly backed Greenspan's anti-inflation drive.

The prospect of a US policy split and slow budget negotiations does not bode well for new initiatives by finance ministers and central bank chiefs at their Feb 3 meeting.

Senior monetary officials held preparatory talks in Zurich yesterday, but ministers have played down the possible outcome of the formal Washington meeting. They have billed it as a "get-to-know you" session which might not issue a communiqué.

Bush's team is keen to start a new initiative on the Third World debt crisis, but European monetary sources say the focus of attention is likely to be on a review of dollar policy.

The dollar's gains, fuelled by tighter US policy, are already posing problems to the world economy and economists said the risk of "letting the currency rip" was too great.

**Spark**

A stronger dollar would boost inflation in Europe and Japan as import prices rise. West German consumer prices rose to a year-on-year 2.5 per cent in January from 1.6 a month earlier.

Rising inflation could spark higher interest rates in Europe, risking a recession and collapse of business confidence at a time when stock markets are forging ahead strongly.

A high dollar would make US exports less competitive, exacerbating the huge US trade deficit. A key objective of policy co-ordination has been to redress global imbalances.

● If the dollar were to break out of the top end of the Louvre accord target against the mark, thought to be 1.90, central bankers are worried the rally could get out of hand.

Concerted dollar sales have aimed at preventing the currency breaking through "chart points" at 1.8510 and 1.8560 marks which could "trigger" further gains, perhaps to two marks and above.

● Abandoning target ranges would throw into doubt the whole concept of managed exchange rates now pursued by the Group of Seven and undermine confidence in policy co-ordination.

**Option**

Economists said the G-7 had little option but to play to form, intervening to dampen enthusiasm for the dollar in the hope that US budget cuts would start to slow the US economy and turn market psychology against the currency.

The danger is that all roads lead to higher interest rates. Intervention by central banks such as the Bundesbank, in theory though not always in practice, sucks money out of domestic money markets and tends to tighten interest rates.

Poehl made clear yesterday the Bundesbank wanted a strong mark and economists believe it would not hesitate to raise interest rates again if intervention did not contain the dollar.

That would be the third rise since December and could trigger matching moves throughout continental Europe, although Britain and Japan have so far been largely unaffected.

## Futures exchange official promises reform

CHICAGO, Jan. 27. (Reuters): A grand jury yesterday resumed its look into possible multi-million dollar fraud in futures trading and an official of one of the exchanges predicted the experience would unleash reforms to improve the industry.

The secret grand jury proceedings, which could continue for weeks, centred on reports from Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) agents who posed as traders for two years gathering evidence of alleged cheating on the floors of the Chicago Board of Trade and the Chicago Mercantile Exchange.

**Gathering**

Federal investigators were also gathering information from subpoenas aimed at scores of trading firms, individuals and the two futures exchanges themselves, the largest in the world.

Leo Melamed, chairman of the Mercantile Exchange Executive Committee, said that a special committee set up to review the exchanges' rules and practices and recommend reforms would do so in minute detail. No individual trader would escape scrutiny, he said.

ity and change the structural procedures and floor practices, so that never again can an opportunity of these kinds of violations ever occur on the floors of our exchanges," he said in a broadcast interview.

He said the probe, which one source has predicted will result in 150 or more indictments, "isn't going to change the flow of business to these future markets, nor the fact that they are the most coveted instrument in the world of finance today..."

**Preserve**

"What has to be changed is to make sure that we preserve the value of that invention... I think our future is as bright as it ever was. It will be better by virtue of this experience."

Fallout from the investigation continued. Rumours swept the board of trade that more subpoenas were likely. The Chicago Tribune reported that two undercover FBI agents were still working on the exchange floors recording reaction to each new disclosure about the probe.

Some independent, local traders at the Board of Trade

said they were scared. They said they were innocent but feared they might be dragged into the investigation by traders who had been forced to co-operate with the FBI.

The Federal Prosecutor's Office in Chicago and the FBI have both refused to confirm the existence of the investigation.

However, a source close to the operation told Reuters the undercover agent found traders cheating each other and their customers out of millions of dollars through skimming and a variety of other frauds.

**Contracts**

On the exchanges, contracts worth billions of dollars covering everything from pork bellies — pre-bacon hogs — to government bonds are traded daily. In a futures contract, the buyer agrees to purchase or sell a commodity or financial instrument at a set price at a specific future date.

Business has boomed on the two exchanges in recent years, growing from 101 million contracts traded in 1983 to 181 million in 1988. Melamed said the growth helped hide abuses.

## SHIPPING MOVEMENTS

SHIPS DISCHARGING AT SHUWAIKH PORT AS ON 27/1/89

B.No.	Ships Name	Agent	Tel. No.
2	Shalamar	Algh Barwil	4842988
4	Taluk	KSA	4843150
5	Karina	KSA	4843150
6	Rubens	GH & Q	4347815
7	Sea Star	Sager Shaheen	2432692
10	Tochigi Maru	A.Bahar	2433881
14	Alyamamah	KSA	4843150
18	Viktor Talalikhin	Alarshed	2422026

SHIPS EXPECTED AT SHUWAIKH PORT

ETA	Ships Name	Agent	Tel. No.
25/1	Haishon	Marafi Intl	2465645
27/1	Ever Orient	Sal. Maritime	2453471
27/1	Iris Everest	ISA	2441860

SHIPS DISCHARGING AT SHUAIBA PORT

B. No.	Ships Name	Agent	Tel. No.
2	Baffin Bay	RSMs	2423642
11	Crystal Reed	ISA	2441860
14	Rivertyne	Algh Barwil	4842988

SHIPS EXPECTED AT SHUAIBA PORT

ETA	Ships Name	Agent	Tel. No.
25/1	Pal Eagles	RSMs	2423642
27/1	UCO-XVII	S.Shaheen	2432692
27/1	Nevada	A.Seas	2421303
28/1	Providence Bay	KMMC	2419814
29/1	Yamamah	UASC	4843150
4/2	Baltic	MA Bahar	2433881
5/2	City of Beirut	RSMs	2423642

COMPILED BY:  
Alghaim Barwil Shipping Co. Kuwait, Alghaim Industries Building, Airport Road, Shuwaikh. Tel: 4842988/4843988 Ext. 3628/3646.

## Gold goes below \$400 an ounce

LONDON, Jan. 27. (Reuters): The gold price dropped under \$400 an ounce at the regular afternoon setting in London's bullion market today for the first time since October.

Dealers said gold slipped after oil prices moved lower following talks between officials of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries and several Third World exporters which do not belong to the group.

Spot oil traders had hoped they might agree on new joint measures to restrict oil supply. But when they did not, crude oil quotes fell and already-weak interest in gold, a favoured investor hedge against oil-led inflation, further diminished.

**Down**  
Gold was set at \$399.25 an ounce for the London, down more than \$5 from last night.

The price was last below \$400 at the London afternoon fix on Oct 5, again when oil prices were low.

Gold has hovered between \$400 and \$500 an ounce for more than two years. Its all-time high was around \$850 in January 1980 when oil prices were soaring and investors also sought refuge in it because of a political crisis over hostages held in the US embassy in Tehran.

**Panic**

Bullion analysts say the open question now is whether it may move decisively below \$400, a psychological barrier. But dealers saw no sign of panic selling in London today.

Dealers said investment money was also flowing into shares as leading stock markets including Tokyo, Wall Street and London all surged higher. A rising dollar, too, was a good speculative bet.

World gold output has been rising.

## Wall Street stocks soar 30 points to break 2,300 barrier

NEW YORK, Jan. 27. (Reuters): Wall Street stocks broke through the 2,300 barrier today, adding another 30 points to a rally that has given the market a string of post-crash records.

The Dow Jones industrial index was up 30.18 at 2,321.25, adding to a gain of 56 points earlier in the week.

Traders said they noted strong institutional and retail buying interest, encouraged by the strong blue chips rallies this week. Bond prices were firm.

**Outpaced**

Volume was a heavy 80 million shares and advancing stocks outpaced decliners by a 7-4 margin. "We are seeing some buy programmes but it (the rise) is being fuelled by the cash market itself," said Abbe Couzza, a Shearson Lehman Hutton futures strategist. "There's new money coming in — it's a run-away market."

But some market watchers were worried that a run-away market was inevitable soon.

"We're seeing some foreign buying coming and obviously some domestic buying," said Tom Callahan, senior vice president at Yamaichi International. "But I think we might have to pause for breath a bit."

Since the beginning of the year, the market, which ended last year at 2,168.57, has risen more than 150 points. Since hitting a low in November, the closely watched index of 30 stocks has risen nearly 300 points.

During that time the market has captured back all of the ground lost in the Oct 19, 1987, crash — 508 points.

"The buying represents the

belief that this move is going to continue," said Gene Jay Seagle, director of technical research at Gruntal and Co. "A rise on this kind of volume is always stimulative."

The stock market also received support from treasury bonds, where the benchmark 30-year bond was up 22/32, pushing the yield down to 8.74 per cent from 8.80 per cent at yesterday's close.

The markets have been buoyed by tough anti-inflation talk from Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan.

The Fed chairman has signalled further increase in short-term interest rates, but since the market seems impressed with his resolve, inflation-sensitive long-term rates have been falling, helping to push up stocks as well.

Shares of Apple Computer Inc dropped 4 to 37-3/4 after the company said it expects earnings to fall to between 35 cents to 45 cents a share in its second fiscal quarter, down from 50 cents a share in the same period last year.

## Nigeria faces fuel shortage

LAGOS, Jan. 27. (Reuters): Nigeria faces possible fuel shortages following a fire earlier this week at the country's oldest refinery in Port Harcourt.

Oil Minister Rilwanu Lukman said on Nigerian television last night that refined oil products such as petrol would have to be shipped into the area served by the refinery from both domestic and foreign sources.

"We have to make sure no part of the country goes without for too long," Lukman said during a visit to the refinery.

## US economy grew at a brisk 3.8pc rate after inflation in '88

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27. (Reuters): The US economy grew at a brisk 3.8 per cent rate after inflation in 1988, up from the 3.4 per cent rate of 1987, the Commerce Department said today.

But growth slowed between October and December as a result of the drought, causing the nation's gross national product (GNP) to rise by only 2.0 per cent at an inflation-adjusted annual rate in the quarter.

**Drought**

The summer drought produced losses in crop and livestock output which reduced GNP, a measure of total goods and services, by about 1.1 per cent points, the department said.

The fourth quarter rate was the slowest since the final quarter of 1986 when GNP rose by 1.4 per cent. The figures are adjusted to remove the effects of inflation and normal seasonal factors.

The GNP estimate for the October-December period was even lower than the 2.4 per cent figure expected by Wall Street and could be the reassurance financial markets have been seeking that the economy is not overheated.

**Inflation**

Financial markets have been preoccupied with concern over accelerating inflation, but recent statements by Federal Reserve Board Chairman Alan Greenspan that the central bank would keep interest rates high reassured investors earlier this week.

Later, however, President Bush, seeming to aim a message at the Fed, told reporters that

fear of higher inflation should not be used to choke off growth. Consumer spending rose at a 2.8 per cent pace in the fourth quarter, which was the slowest pace all year.

Economists remain concerned that strong consumption will suck in more imports and worsen the US trade balance, which has been running at about \$135 billion.

Government policymakers have been trying to encourage greater exports and less domestic consumption to reduce the trade deficit.

**Widened**

The trade gap widened by \$6.8 billion at an annual rate in inflation-adjusted terms in the fourth quarter.

The GNP implicit price deflator, a broad measure of inflation, rose at a 4.7 per cent annual rate in the fourth quarter, the same as in the third quarter.

The GNP fixed weights price index rose at a 4.0 per cent rate after rising 5.3 per cent in the third quarter.

For all of the 1988, the fixed weights index was up 4.2 per cent after increasing 3.6 per cent the previous year.



## BOOKS AND AUTHORS



Cecil Day-Lewis (1904-1972)  
poet laureate from 1968



John Masefield (1878-1967)  
poet laureate from 1930



Robert Southey (1774-1843)  
poet laureate from 1813



John Dryden (1631-1689)  
poet laureate from 1668

# Poetry by royal appointment

OF all the official wedding gifts received by Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer, perhaps the most extraordinary was an official ode from the poet laureate, Sir John Betjeman.

"I'm glad that you are marrying at home," wrote Sir Christopher's embracing dome.

And poet laureates, like blackbirds, have been heralding the dawn of happy royal events for the last three hundred years.

The post of poet laureate, evolved gradually. Even as early as Chaucer's time, monarchs were rewarding their favourite writers while poets composed elaborate tributes to their kings and queens. Probably the best royal poem ever written was Edmund Spenser's "Faerie Queen" in honour of Queen Elizabeth I, and Ben Jonson was retained at court for the express purpose of writing entertaining masques for Charles I. But it was Charles II's son, the jovial Charles II, who first conferred the title of poet laureate on John Dryden, and made it official with a warrant and a payment.

The reward for the position of laureate, which at that time carried no official duties, was £100 a year, accompanied by a butt of Canary wine (about 126 gallons). And it says much for the unchanging nature of poets that although all important awards for the post have long since been abandoned, the payment in wine is honoured to this day (although reduced to a couple of cases).

Only one laureate, Henry Pye, was hard-headed enough to request that his wine allowance was translated into cash, a decision condemned as "wicked" by his immediate successor, Robert Southey. Southey was an accomplished poet and poor Henry Pye was most certainly not. Once described as "eminently respectable in everything but his poetry," Pye's limping verses in praise of George III gave rise to a new version of the old rhyme, "When the Pye was opened, the birds began to sing: Wasn't that a dainty dish to set before the king?"

Whether it was the effect of the Canary wine or merely the paralysing prospect of producing poetry on demand (twice yearly odes became obligatory in 1715), very few first-class poets seem to have flowed from the office. Many of the eighteen laureates who have held the post since the 17th century could hardly be described as poets at all, and even those capable of fine verse wrote their best poetry on unofficial subjects.

John Dryden, once caricatured by a subsequent laureate as "a cherry-cheeked dunce of fifty three," certainly enjoyed his wine, and managed to draw twelve years' salary before ever putting pen to paper.

The post of poet laureate, which carries great prestige but no obligations whatsoever, is a peculiarly British institution. Jane Bingham investigates the long and chequered history of the laureateship.

in the service of his king. Obviously he'd been saving himself for a grand slam because when at last he was asked by Charles II to pen an attack on the king's bastard son, the rebellious Duke of Monmouth, the result was so blisteringly brilliant that all England recoiled. Dryden's poem "Absalom and Achitophel" is a thinly disguised old testament allegory with Monmouth cast as the disobedient son Absalom and Charles II as his father, a thoroughly promiscuous King David, who "after Heaven's own heart His vigorous warmth did, variously impart To wives and slaves: and, wide as his command, Scatter'd his Maker's image through the land."

Needless to say, the poem, like the monarch, was a runaway success. Dryden got the laureateship off to flying start but it was over a hundred years before another poet of note wrote the laurel wreath. In the interval, six dramatists, one academic and a "drunken parson" filled the office with very little distinction, churning out listless biannual odes on the occasions of the New Year and the monarch's birthday.

Some monarchs lived so long and did so little that all inspiration failed their laureates. Nahum Tate wrote his most impassioned tribute not to his sovereign but to tea, "the sovereign drink of pleasure and of health," and he probably needed regular doses of his national beverage to keep summoning the muses.

"To caress the royal day that such a blessing did convey No less a blessing than the best of kings."

The three Georges proved especially troublesome to their uninspired laureates. Nicholas Rowe first introduced the theme of "mighty George" the peacemaker, Laurence Eusden elaborated on it and added his tribute to Queen Caroline (the fruitful mother of our joys) (she bore George II eight children), while Colley Cibber, on his own admission "not master of my own language" presented a quite extraordinary picture of George and Caroline's family which could well be used as a warning on how not to mix your metaphors!

Around the royal table spread See how the beauteous branches shine Spring from the fertile genial bed Of glorious George and Caroline! But the trickiest subject of all was George III, who began to suffer from bouts of madness after only eighteen years of his 60-year reign. Fortunately the laureate at the time of the first

attack was the academic Thomas Warton, who had the tact to refrain from a New Year Ode and, by the time the sovereign's birthday came around, Warton was able to present an apparently recovered king with a poem which referred delicately to his indisposition as a passing cloud on the face of the firmament.

George's final descent into madness allowed the undistinguished Henry Pye a welcome three year remission from his duties, and when Pye was succeeded by Robert Southey the literary respectability of the laureateship took a much needed turn for the better.

Southey was the first true poet to hold the laureateship since Dryden (Thomas Greg had refused, the position in 1757, comparing the job to that of royal rat-catcher), but a poet with political views was bound to cause some problems. Southey's first new year ode almost changed the course of history as he let rip against "the perfidious Corsican" just as the English were on the point of signing a peace treaty with Napoleon.

Happily for the laureateship, Southey was succeeded by two great and popular Victorian poets, William Wordsworth and Alfred Lord Tennyson. By this time, obligatory odes had been abandoned, which was fortunate for the elderly Wordsworth, who managed to hold office for seven years without ever writing an official word. The only poem credited to Wordsworth in his capacity as laureate was written by his son-in-law, but the great man won the nation's heart by appearing at court in a (borrowed) velvet suit looking every inch the poet royal.

History does not record whether Victoria was amused to receive her next poet laureate wearing the very same velvet suit, but she certainly admired Tennyson's dedication, patriotism and interest in science, even conferring a peerage on him. And Tennyson certainly deserved the honour, turning out scores of poems on national events during his record 42 years office. One of his best loved official poems was written in response to the news of a disastrous military campaign at Balaklava, and generations of English schoolchildren can still recite the opening lines of the famous Charge of the Light Brigade: "Half a league, half a league Half a league onward, All in the valley of Death Rode the six hundred."

Three years elapsed after Tennyson's death before a successor was chosen from among such excellent candidates as Rudyard Kipling and Thomas Hardy. Eventually Lord Roseberry, the third Prime Minister to tackle the

problem, appointed his own man, the amateur poet and Tory member of parliament Alfred Austin, a choice he was soon to regret. Within eleven days of his appointment, to the chagrin of Lord Roseberry and his party, Austin had published a dangerous ode in praise of an illegal political coup!

After the disastrous Alfred Austin, three good and serious poets did much to repair the reputation of the laureateship in the 20th century. Robert Bridges produced poems about the First World War and founded the Society for Pure English. John Masefield wrote on the Second World War and the assassination of President Kennedy and introduced the Sovereign's Gold Medal for Poetry, and Cecil Day-Lewis lent his support to the arts while expressing the new spirit of the age in poems such as "Hail Teeside."

With the appointment of Sir John Betjeman, tributes to the brave new world were replaced once more by traditional odes on royal occasions. Betjeman's jubilee hymn received a mixed critical reception but hundreds of Englishmen were proud to sing

"In days of disillusion However low we've been To fire us and inspire us God gave to us our Queen."

It was likely that a very different kind of poet would succeed Betjeman in 1984. At least half a dozen names were proposed by the Poetry Society, including Philip Larkin and Roy Fuller, but the final choice of Ted Hughes came as a surprise. As the literary editor of The Times commented, replacing Sir John Betjeman by the 54-year-old Hughes was "a bit like appointing a grim young crow to replace a cuddly old teddy bear."

Another commentator, recalling Hughes's savage animal poetry and his turbulent marriage to Sylvia Plath, wondered whether the laureate's poems on royal births and deaths might read more like tribal incantations than decorous court odes.

The critic was right. In an interview on his appointment the new laureate explained "for me the crown is a symbol of the unity of the tribe" and Hughes has injected his official poems with a vein of savagery hitherto undreamt of by poets to the crown. One can only speculate on the Queen's reaction to Hughes's offering on her sixtieth birthday a verse pageant in which crow and gull and friends present sixty candles at an elemental throne!

At 58, Hughes looks all set for a long and extraordinary laureateship, but what of the future of the royal post? At the time of Betjeman's death the Poetry Council suggested that the term of office should be reduced to a maximum of five years to enable a larger number of poets to exert their influence on the nation's poetry. Needless to say the suggestion was overruled and the laureateship, like the monarchy it serves, is still for life.

## Observing middle-class America

By W.J. Weatherby

ANNE TYLER is the kind of writer who is more commonly found in England than the United States. A painstaking observer of middle-class American family life and the relationships between odd couples, she has made no concessions to the vast American mass market.

Respectfully reviewed ever since her first novel, *If Morning Ever Comes*, in 1964, she has taken ten more novels to find a large audience. "Not every good writer produces bulldozers," warned Time magazine.

But a sign of a bulldozing breakthrough came recently with the filming of her last novel, *The Accidental Tourist*, and her new one *Breathing Lessons* which is published in Britain this month, has been selected as a Book Of The Month Club Main Selection in the US.

A slim woman in her late forties who looks like the librarian she once was, Anne Tyler was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota but grew up in Raleigh, North Carolina and considers herself "a Southerner."

She lives now with her husband, a psychiatrist and their two children in Baltimore, Maryland.

Influence Apart from the South, Russian studies has been a major influence and some critics have even seen Chekhov in Anne Tyler's view of the human comedy. She did graduate work in Russian studies at New York's Columbia University and worked for a year as the Russian bibliographer at the Duke University Library. She is still involved enough to review a recent biography of



Anne Tyler: her books reduce the continent of America to a domestic family scene

Tolstoy, though the author, the British novelist, A.N. Wilson, probably wished she hadn't bothered. Although this new look at the great Russian novelist was well reviewed elsewhere in the US, Tyler found the author's style and presumption, "offensive" and decided it revealed more about the author than about Tolstoy.

At least she seemed to admire Tolstoy. Not so Emily Bronte. She recently informed The New Times Book Review: "I somehow escaped reading *Wuthering Heights* as a girl, but my luck ran out in my thirties. Several friends enticed me to her about Heathcliff as a wonderful romantic figure, the kind of man they should have married instead of their husbands."

Tyler, however, found the hero of *Wuthering Heights* to be "an evil-tempered, spiteful lout without a shred of kindness, snarling away at a sweet heart almost equally viperish." And Emily Bronte's writing style suggested she "may have been suffering a serious fever." Summed up Tyler tartly: "If Heathcliff is romantic, imagine the possibilities in Jack The Ripper."

Impression Tart-tongued, a put-downer of fellow novelists you might think, yet her own novels give quite a different impression. No one certainly could call her men wonderfully romantic figures. They are more like the husbands that her wives always seem to be struggling to come to

terms with, often with a growing sense of failure.

"It was like a tug-o-war," she wrote of human relations in *The Accidental Tourist*. One of her favourite settings is a car in which a couple are making a long journey. By the time they reach their destination, their relationship is either over or has moved on to a better, more understanding stage.

In her obsession with journeys — a very Russian obsession — there is also a very American obsession with time. "Oh, it was their immaturity to time that made the dead so heartbreaking," she typically exclaims in one novel.

You find the same symbolic sense of a clock ticking in other Southern novelists such as William Faulkner and Tennessee Williams, but Anne Tyler lacks their dramatic sweep and deep spiritual crises. In *Searching for Caleb*, she defined both her approach and the world she writes about: "Now as she cruised through the darkening house she was aware of how everything here was attached to everything else."

There was no such thing as a simple, meaningless teacup, even. "The huge American continent is reduced to a domestic family scene. Richard Schickel of Time magazine protested the selection of *The Accidental Tourist* as the best film of 1988 by the New York Film Critics Circle and he dismissed the novel as "upper cut."

That is seeing Tyler's world as a minor affair, a slice of affluent Baltimore life, but the former Russian bibliographer clearly has in mind much more than that. Her real subject is the place of the American family today and the current often unsatisfactory relationships between men and women.

## French Revolution under English scrutiny

By Geoffrey Ellis

THE bicentenary of the French Revolution in 1989 is imminent and, with fine timing, a team of English-speaking historians has stolen a march on the grand celebrations in an illustrated history which reads well and is also authoritative. We shall be lucky indeed if the more popular effusions this year come near to matching it. For readers seeking the main facts, so as better to recognise the fiction that will surely follow, this book can be recommended.

Richard Cobb and Colin Jones have assembled a group of contributors "from three continents" who, like them, are specialists in the many facets of the subject. "The aim of this book," we are told, "is to convey the importance of the French Revolution in world history; and to show how the human and the humdrum persisted in the welter of events."

The contributors have drawn on a wide range of contemporary

sources — laws, tracts, letters, diaries, newspapers, articles, speeches, memoirs. These reflect the voices of all layers of society: rich and poor, sophisticated and uncouth, big fry and minnows, victims and survivors.

The six chapters are subdivided into sections of two or three pages each, where opposite quotations from original sources (most translated into English for the first time) are juxtaposed with short modern reappraisals of the essential facts and issues involved.

Their episodic format allows for interesting asides into the *petite histoire* of the period, including Louis XVI's sexual problems, Marie-Antoinette's relationship with Count Fersen, the royal family on the road to or back from Varennes, the invention of the guillotine, the origin of the *Marseillaise*, some gory excesses of the Terror and *haute cuisine* after Thermidor.

The book starts with the worsening financial plight of the Bourbon monarchy, the origins of some revolutionary thought in

the 18th-century Enlightenment and the hardships of the popular classes at the end of the old regime. The largest part, however, covers the meeting of the States General and runs through the major institutional reforms of the Constituent and Legislative Assemblies to the deposition of the king and the widening of the revolutionary wars.

The essentially human experiences of the Revolution leave the unmistakable impression that there was not one French Revolution but many, ideologically diverse and regionally divergent. Its leaders, in the earliest years at least, were a mixed elite of liberal nobles, clerics and bourgeois determined to defend the inalienable rights of private property. At the same time they tried to reconstruct the state according to more rational principles and, during the Jacobin ascendancy, to reform society itself through a new republican morality.

But what of the followers? In 1789, no more than 15 per cent of

the French population of nearly 28 million lived in communities of more than 2,000 inhabitants. Yet the 20 million peasants seem, on the whole, not to have been actively involved in the grand causes of successive revolutionary elites — or much interested in the "new political culture" emanating from their "discourse."

In other words, the popularity of the Revolution in France as a whole is not self-evident. This, perhaps, helps to explain why Napoleon Bonaparte — whose portrait at the end of the text is an ominous reminder of things to come — was able to redeploy the new elites, neutralise their "discourse," and shape the French state to his authoritarian designs after 1799.

The French Revolution: Voices from a Momentous Epoch 1789-1795.

Edited by Richard Cobb and Colin Jones. Simon & Schuster. £14.95.

## Unique private library under auctioneer's hammer

By Georgie Grieg

ONE of the world's greatest private libraries is to be sold. It includes the finest collection of ornithological books in private hands as well as thousands of unique literary and historical manuscripts and first editions, and is expected to raise more than £20m.

But its sale throws a question mark over the future of other private libraries.

The break-up of the H. Bradley Martin library in New York is the latest instance of private collectors being tempted by record market price to sell. Many of the items are unlikely to be for sale again, as Japanese and American institutions are expected to be strong bidders at the Sotheby's auctions this summer.

Once institutions buy books, they are rarely sold again. Their buying power in the past 30 years has reduced the number of books on the market.

About 20 years ago Sotheby's had a book auction almost once a

week. Now it is about once a month. As one bookseller said last week: "Even for a very rich collector it is increasingly hard to find high quality books. The breakup of a collection is very sad, but more and more inevitable because of the high prices. Some people can't resist cashing in their chips."

Important

The Bradley Martin sale will be the most important book-buying opportunity since the second world war. It will include one of the two remaining copies of the American Declaration of Independence still in private hands.

There is also a unique signed copy of the Victorian poet Robert Browning's first book, *Pauline*, and one of the four known copies of the medieval poem *Piers Plowman*, printed on vellum in 1550. There are 10,000 other valuable books and manuscripts.

The market is witnessing fantastic prices: last November, for instance, Franz Kafka's original

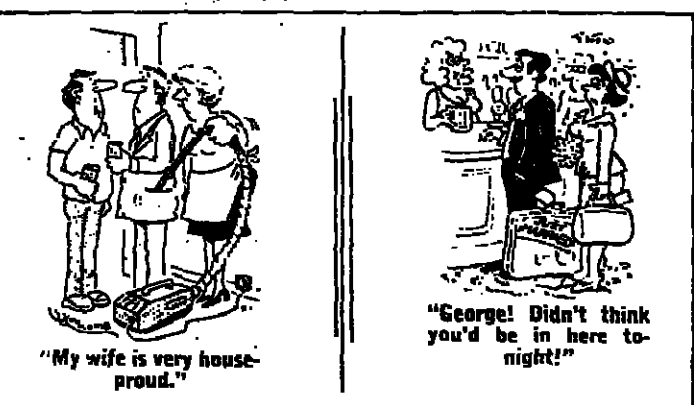
manuscript of *The Trial* raised £240, making it the most expensive 20th-century manuscript.

It was during the recession in the 1930s and 1940s that rich collectors like Bradley Martin, heir to a vast steel fortune, bought high quality books at low prices.

The collection's sale underlines a disturbing trend. Hereford Cathedral considered selling its medieval chained library before it opted for the promise of £7m at auction for the

Mappa Mundi. And last year Manchester University sold 94 books for £1.8m from the John Rylands collection, which had been bequeathed to it. The sale meant one of the finest private libraries, collected in the 18th century by Lord Spencer, was irrevocably split up.

Nicholas Barker, of the British Library, said: "It is tragic that collections are being broken up. They are invaluable sources of learning which will never again be assembled together."



## FAMILY DOCTOR

By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

## HEART MURMUR MAY NOT POSE SERIOUS PROBLEM

QUESTION: After many years without medical care, I recently visited a physician who discovered a heart murmur in my aorta. He was very patient with me and tried to describe my condition, but the only term I remember is "regurgitation." Doesn't that apply to vomiting? Do you have enough information to tell me what is wrong?

ANSWER: It's always hard to concentrate when you receive a disturbing diagnosis. But you have given me enough clues to discuss your condition. It is a disease called aortic incompetence or insufficiency, which affects the aortic valves that separate the left ventricle of the heart from the main body artery, the aorta.

These valves are responsible for keeping the blood flowing in the right direction, from the heart to the body. However when they become diseased, they no longer close completely, and allow some blood to flow backward into the left ventricle, thus the term "regurgitation."

The murmur your physician heard was caused by the blood flowing backward for an instant, right after your heart has con-

tracted. Treatment will depend upon your symptoms. Frequently they are minimum, but you may become breathless on exertion or develop heart palpitations.

If the symptoms of heart failure develop, surgically replacing the damaged valves is currently the treatment of choice. Since your physician seems concerned and knowledgeable, I'm sure you will be able to discuss all of this with him again, particularly the appropriate treatment in your case.

QUESTION: My friend claims he has a great recipe for the "morning after" blues. He mixes a raw egg with a lot of other junk and claims his head clears right up. I told him he could catch an infection and diarrhoea with this concoction but he won't listen. Please tell him about the risk he runs.

ANSWER: The risk of developing a Salmonella intestinal infection from raw eggs has increased rather dramatically over the last several years. In the Northeast, it has jumped five-fold between 1975 and 1985.

While not all cases may be blamed on the eating of raw eggs, at least 29 outbreaks of enteritis associated with raw egg consump-

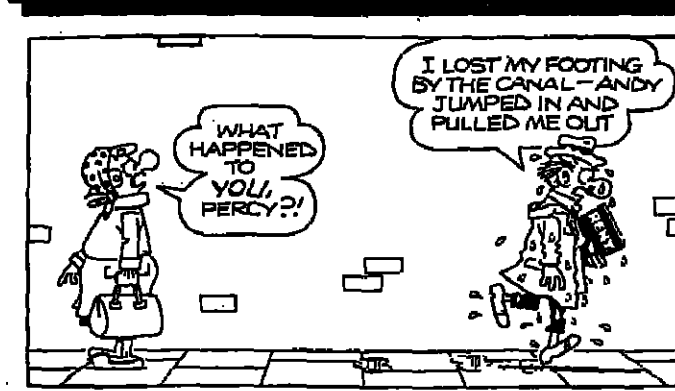
tion were reported in the same area of our country in a two-year period. While the method by which eggs become contaminated is not always easy to determine, prevention of the infection is simple enough.

Eggs, like other foods that are composed of animal products, should be cooked thoroughly before eating. A cooking heat where the internal temperature of the food reaches at least 165 degrees Fahrenheit is recommended. The myth that raw eggs are somehow a special "health food," or have specific powers to erase the ill effects of night of alcoholic indulgence, can be totally discounted, despite the claims for miracle morning-after concoctions.

The risk of Salmonella infection, with its symptoms of mild to severe diarrhoea, fever, headache and occasionally vomiting, is far more real, and include the possibility of loss of life. You are doing your friend a real service with your accurate advice, and perhaps showing him this answer to your question may help him and others during this time of holiday celebration.

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## ANDY CAPP



## By Smith





# ARAB TIMES Classifieds

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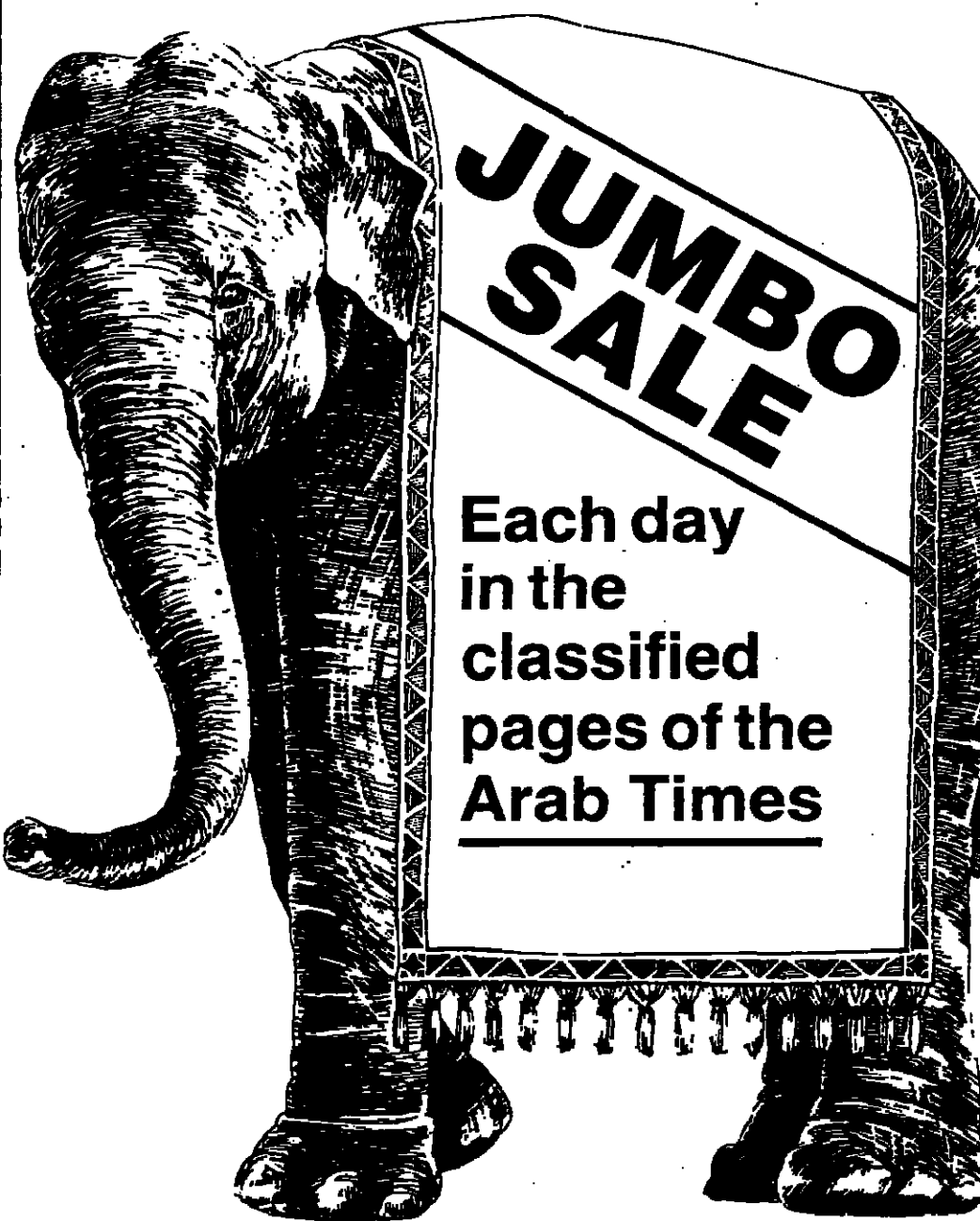
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SPORTS

ARAB TIMES, SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, 1989

**Athlete body plans random drug tests**

SINGAPORE, Jan 27, (Reuters): Athletes could be drug-tested anywhere at any time under stringent new rules discussed by the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) council today.

IAAF vice-president and medical commission chairman Arne Ljungqvist said of the proposed random tests: "It is perfectly legal. They are not forced to take the test. But if they don't, they can't compete."

"The only way to get rid of this problem (drugs) is to conduct tests outside competition. Our idea is to appear anywhere, any time, without warning. The tests must be frequent enough to make people run the risk of being caught," Ljungqvist told Reuters.

**Proposal**

The three-day meeting of the 23 council members will also discuss a proposal to ban from international competition for two years South African athletes who emigrate, council officials said.

World athletics chief Primo Nebiolo faces tough questioning over a series of recent scandals in his native Italy at the council meeting.

West German delegate August Kirsch told Reuters this week many council members, especially the Europeans, wanted to question Nebiolo about his recent resignation as president of the Italian federation FIDAL.

Ljungqvist said more drug testing facilities would be needed to cope with the increased number of tests under the proposed new rules.

"We will need in future a larger lab capacity. We are willing to fund them if the tests are recognised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC)," he said.

"We will have to put away much money," he said, noting that each test costs about \$110.

About 40,000 drug tests are conducted annually by the world's 22 testing centres, and that number could quadruple if out-of-competition tests were instituted, he said.

Member nations would also have to conduct their own out-of-competition tests and report the results to the IAAF.

Ljungqvist said criticism of such tests as violations of athletes' rights had been blunted by the increasing public awareness of the drug problem.

But athletes caught using "less-serious drugs" such as substances found in common medicines and light tranquilisers may face a three-month ban instead of the present two-year ban, Ljungqvist said.

"We have been criticised that we treat all drugs the same. We will make a clearer distinction," he said.

The two-year penalty would remain in force for athletes caught using hormones or steroids, he said.

**Doping**  
Progress had also been made to detect the practice of blood doping, where competitors remove some blood only to return it just before competition to leave the body rich in oxygen-carrying red blood cells, he said.

"There are investigations to find a system to detect it. We will begin a field study at the world cross-country championships (to be held in Norway this March)," Ljungqvist said.

**Chess tourney**

WIK-AAN-ZEE, Netherlands, Jan 27, (AP): Zoltan Ribli and Gyula Sax, Hungarian grandmasters leading the major section of the 51st annual Hoogovens Chess Tournament, both drew games in yesterday's eleventh round to stay atop the standings.

The Italian world champion, who had held the lead since the fourth special time stage on Sunday, virtually cruised to victory on the arduous final night which took the rally over three formidable mountain passes.

Biasion, 31, winner of the 1987 Monte Carlo Rally, finished a comfortable six minutes 27 seconds ahead of his young French rival Didier Auriol. Last year's winner Bruno Saby, also of France, was third a further one minute 14 seconds behind.

The Italian's total mastery of the often snowy and icy conditions and the problem-free performance of his Lancia Delta underlined that both he and his team will be clear favourites to retain the rally World Championship this season.

**BORDER SENDS W. INDIES SPINNING WITH SEVEN FOR 46**

**Boon puts Australia in strong position**

SYDNEY, Jan 27, (Reuters): An unbeaten 110 by David Boon, batting in his new position of number three, helped put Australia in a strong position on the second day of the fourth cricket Test today.

At the close Australia were 200 for three in reply to the modest Test Indies first innings total of 224.

Boon, who normally opens with Geoff Marsh, dominated the Australian innings.

The stocky Tasmanian, who has scored his last three Test centuries at the Sydney Cricket Ground (SCG), slammed 10 boundaries and stood firm against the pace attack which still managed to get the ball to bounce from a placid pitch.

Malcolm Marshall, who has not been at his best this series, made an early breakthrough when he had Marsh caught behind for two.

**Yorked**

But Mark Taylor, making his Test debut, recovered from the scare of being yorked by a no-ball from Curtly Ambrose when he had scored only five to help keep West Indies at bay.

Viv Richards was soon forced to resort to his spinners but although off-spinners Roger Harper and Carl Hooper both bowled tidily and occasionally extracted some alarming turn neither took a wicket.

Australia struggled for runs in the morning session against some light and hostile West Indian bowling, scoring a mere 39 runs before the lunch break.

West Indian pacemen Marshall and Ambrose showed rare skills on a wicket that offered little lift and deviation for them, keeping the batsmen on the back foot with a succession of hostile deliveries.

Taylor battled through the morning session and took his



Border (2nd left) being congratulated by his team-mates as they leave the field. (Reuters wirephoto)

total to 25 before Ambrose uprooted his off stump in the West Indian's second spell after lunch.

Dean Jones, batting with an injured finger, played well for 29 before he was bowled by Richards attempting to play a sweep shot after adding 71 with Boon.

Australian captain Allan Border, who has been finding runs hard to come by throughout the series, fought his way to some semblance of form with 18 not out in a fourth wicket partnership of 86 with Boon.

Yesterday Border was Australia's unlikely bowling hero, capturing seven for 46 with his part-time left-arm spinners to send West Indies tumbling from 144 for one to 224 all out.

Border's figures on the opening day were easily a personal Test record and his performance was also the best-ever by an Australian bowler against West Indies at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

Australia's slow bowlers took advantage of a pitch offering increasing turn to snap up all 10 wickets after West Indies won the toss.

Border, whose previous Test best was three for 20, was supported by off-spinner Peter Taylor with two for 65 and leg-spinner Trevor Hohns, who claimed one for 49 on his Test debut.

West Indies, leading 3-0 in the five-match series, were given a solid foundation with a stand of 90 by openers Gordon Green-



Geoff Marsh (left) tends to Haynes after the latter was hit on the ankle by a ball. (Reuters wirephoto)

idge (56) and Desmond Haynes (75), who made the top score despite an injured ankle suffered after stepping on the ball.

Richie Richardson (28) helped to consolidate the good start, lifting the total to 144 with Haynes before Border stunningly tilted the balance.

West Indies were all out just before the close, Border having used pacemen Terry Alderman, Merv Hughes and Steve Waugh for a total of only 24 of the 99.2 overs bowled.

West Indies, who brought in Harper for his first appearance of the series in place of fast bowler Patrick Patterson, survived one or two anxious moments as Greenidge and Haynes built a good base to the innings.

Haynes was dropped twice — once off Alderman and then off Taylor — before reaching double figures, and it was his fellow Barbadian who played with greater freedom and confidence before lunch, hitting five fours.

Their partnership was broken when Greenidge played tentatively at a shorter, rising ball from Taylor and succeeded only in guiding it into the hands of Steve Waugh at silly mid-off. Greenidge hit eight boundaries.

Haynes, who struck nine fours, put on 54 with Richardson, whose dismissal when he tried to cut Border was the start of a collapse in which the last nine wickets crashed for 80.

Captain Viv Richards, who said on Wednesday the Australian spinners posed little threat to his team, played

impatiently for his 11 runs before falling to Border, caught off bat and pad by Boon.

Although there was little, if any, irregular bounce, the pitch provided turn that was something sharp, if slow.

The spinners continued to make the most of the conditions and accelerated West Indies' decline by taking three wickets with the total on 174 shortly after tea.

From 174 for six, the touring team briefly checked Australia's advance as Jeff Dujon and Harper put on 25, but once Border ended that resistance the innings was swiftly polished off. The last four wickets went for 25.

**Scoreboard**

WEST INDIES first innings	
G. Greenidge c Waugh b Taylor	56
D. Haynes c Boon b Hohns	75
R. Richardson c Taylor b Border	28
C. Hooper c Marsh b Border	0
V. Richards c Boon b Border	11
A. Logie b Border	0
J. Dujon c Hughes b Border	18
R. Harper c Taylor b Border	17
M. Marshall c Jones b Taylor	9
C. Walsh not out	1
Extras (b-1 lb-3 w-1)	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>224</b>
Fall of wickets: 1-90 2-144 3-156 4-174 5-174 6-174 7-199 8-213 9-220 10-224	
Bowling: Alderman 10-2-17-0, Hughes 10-3-28-0, P. Taylor 25-2-65-2, Hohns 24-8-49-1, Border 26-10-46-7, Waugh 4-0-18-0	
AUSTRALIA first innings	
G. Marsh c Dujon b Marshall	2
M. Taylor c Ambrose	25
D. Boon not out	110
D. Jones b Richards	29
A. Border not out	18
Extras (b-3 lb-5 w-8)	16
<b>Total (for three wickets)</b>	<b>200</b>
Fall of wickets: 1-142 2-43 3-114	
Bowling: Marshall 12-10-4-1, Ambrose 10-4-26-1, Harper 30-6-68-0, Walsh 6-2-6-0, Hooper 17-4-38-0, Richards 21-1-40-1	
Skill to bat: S. Waugh, I. Healy, T. Alderman, T. Hohns, P. Taylor, M. Hughes	

**Sikander Bakht to replace Wasim**

**Pakistan draw against President's XI**

HAMILTON, New Zealand, Jan 27, (Reuters): Pakistan drew with New Zealand's President's XI today after a three-day match which never looked like producing a result.

Pakistan gained a first innings lead of 41 when President's XI captain John Wright declared the first innings at 261 for five.

Despite brilliantly fine weather the cricket seldom matched conditions and Pakistan used their second innings which lasted 35 overs as batting practice.

Captain Imran Khan provided the highlights of the innings with one six and seven fours before being caught by Jeff Crowe off Andrew Nuttall. His 49 runs took 112 minutes.

When stumps were drawn Pakistan were 108 for three.

Nuttall achieved a clean sweep, taking all three Pakistan wickets for 37.

Earlier former New Zealand Test captain Crowe celebrated his return to the international scene with a solid 58, which included six fours.

Crowe, 30, was dropped last

year after a series of poor batting performances but a return to form this season saw him included in the New Zealand team named today.

"I've had a more relaxed attitude 'this season' and this selection is a real bonus," he said.

Not so fortunate was 18-year-old Chris Cairns, son of Test cricketer Lance Cairns, who retired hurt after being hit in the face by a short rising ball from Imran Khan.

**Scoreboard**

PRESIDENT'S XI first innings	
Trevor Franklin b Imran	23
John Wright c Shaoh b Jaffer	73
Robert Vance c Young b Jaffer	1
Jeff Crowe c Jaffer b Aaqib	58
Andrew Jones b Imran	41
Ervin McSweeney not out	11
Chris Cairns retired hurt	25
Brendon Bracewell not out	5
Extras (b-1 lb-10 w-10)	21
<b>Total (for five wickets)</b>	<b>261</b>
Fall of wickets: 1-52 2-49 3-134 4-155 5-207	
Did not bat: Dipak Patel, Andrew Nuttall, Vaughn Johnson	
Bowling: Imran 27-7-69-2, Aaqib 27-8-61-1, Jaffer 18-4-53-2, Ejaz 6-0-23-0, Tauseef 20-9-43-0, Shaoh 2-1-1-0	
PAKISTAN first innings 363 for	

second innings

Imran Khan c Crowe b Nuttall 49  
Salim Yousuf c Young b Nuttall 11  
Shaoh Mohammed not out 24  
Ejaz Ahmed b Nuttall 21  
Extras (nb-3) 3

**Total (for three wickets)** 108  
Fall of wickets: 1-25 2-78 3-108  
Bowling: Nuttall 11-2-37-3, Bracewell 9-2-28-0, Johnson 13-4-37-8, Franklin 2-0-4-0

Did not bat: Moiz-ul-Aziz, Rameez Raja, Javed Miandad, Asmer Malik, Aaqib Javed, Salim Malik, Saleem Jaffer, Tauseef Ahmed

Meanwhile, Pakistan left-arm fast bowler Wasim Akram is to return home early from their cricket tour of New Zealand because of a nagging groin injury.

The premature departure of the talented Wasim who can also be a punishing lower order batsman, is a blow to the side who start the first of three Tests against New Zealand in Dunedin on February 3.

Also returning home is batsman Anwar Saeed, who was originally selected for the Australian section of the tour but came onto New Zealand because of the team's injury worries.

**Super Bowl won on faulty play**

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan 27, (Reuters): When the San Francisco 49ers beat the Cincinnati Bengals with 34 seconds left in the Super Bowl they did it with running backs who were wrongly positioned on the field, the San Francisco Examiner said on Wednesday.

The newspaper said the play that won the championship called for Roger Craig to line up to the left of quarterback Joe

Montana and Tom Rathman to Montana's right.

But Craig and Rathman had erroneously switched places.

"When we broke the huddle, I saw Tom line up on the left, so that wasn't the time to argue, so I just lined up on the right," Craig told the Examiner in an interview from Hawaii where he was preparing for the Pro Bowl.

As tens of millions of football fans watched the final seconds of

the game on television at Miami's Joe Robbie Stadium, Montana, unperturbed, fired a 10-yard pass to John Taylor, winning the third Super Bowl for the 49ers since 1950.

Meanwhile, Bill Walsh yesterday stepped down as head coach of the San Francisco 49ers, four days after leading the team to its third Super Bowl championship of the decade, the team announced.

The unlucky Auriol, already almost five minutes behind before the final night, lost a further two minutes in the first timed stage with his fourth breakdown in two days.

But he emerged as hero of the night, taking victory in each of the final four specials despite the dangers posed by rally fans lining the route who threw snow and gravel on to the road.

The difference between the styles of the two drivers was made clear by their comments afterwards. "I was careful with the gravel on the downhill stretches," Biasion said. "I attacked

**Christie out**

LONDON, Jan 27, (AP): Linford Christie, Europe's fastest sprinter, withdrew yesterday from his first scheduled indoor race of the new track season with a hamstring injury.

The British 100-metre Olympic silver medalist had been due to compete over 200 metres.

He was replaced by another Seoul medalist, John Regis, a member of Britain's silver medal-winning 400-metre sprint quartet.

**Foreman KO's Young**

ROCHESTER, New York, Jan 27, (UPI): George Foreman continued his comeback attempt with a knockout of Mark Young at 2:57 of the seventh round last night but former junior welterweight champion Aaron Pryor delayed his comeback, withdrawing before his bout on the card because of an eye injury.

Foreman, the former heavyweight champion of the world, stopped Young with a right-left combination to the head after stunning him several times in earlier rounds.

Young, who lasted 50 seconds in the ring with Mike Tyson, gamely rose from the canvas and tried to continue but his trainer and the referee stepped between the fighters after it was apparent Young could not defend himself.

"I wanted to get those extra rounds in, I could have knocked him out earlier when I got some good shots in early, but I wanted to extend myself a little bit," Foreman said.

New Zealand has named four seamen including Willie Watson who was named ahead of the form paceman, Danny Morrison. One of the seamen is likely to be named 12th man.

The 12 named by the New Zealand selectors are:

John Wright (captain), Robert Vance, Andrew Jones, Martin Crowe, Mark Greatbatch, Jeff Crowe, Richard Hadlee, Ian Smith, John Bracewell, Martin Snedden, Willie Watson, and Ewen Chatfield.

Foreman, winning his 15th fight with his 15th KO since returning to the ring after a 10-year absence, took several shots from Young but continued moving forward throughout the fight.

"I was surprised, I hit him with some shots that ordinarily, guys would just faint," Foreman said.

Pryor, preparing to climb into the ring for his second fight since moving to Rochester last summer and claiming to have kicked cocaine, will have surgery next Tuesday to correct a heavy cataract in his left eye.

**Detached**  
"They think the retina might be detached behind it," said New York state boxing commissioner Randy Gordon.

Gordon said he was informed of the injury earlier in the week but hesitated to call off the fight because doctors said at first he could perhaps fight, but ruled against it late yesterday afternoon.

**Doherty pounds Hussein**

LONDON, Jan 27, (AP): Pat Doherty stripped Mo Hussein of his Commonwealth lightweight boxing title on Wednesday night when the referee stopped the fight in the fifth round of a bout marked by repeated head butts.

Hussein, making his fourth defence of the title and hoping for a world title shot later in 1989, was cut over the right eye as he was knocked to the floor — apparently by a head butt — midway through the fifth round of the scheduled 12-round event.

Though Hussein quickly got to his feet, referee Micky Vann stopped the fight after looking at the eye.

Hussein, champion for almost two years, knocked Doherty to the canvas in the third round. But the repeated head butting started shortly after that, leading to warnings for both fighters.

Doherty, 26, had fought for nearly eight years as a featherweight and super-featherweight, and until early January was expecting to meet British super-featherweight titleholder Floyd Havard. But Havard had to pull out with an injured hand and Doherty was matched up instead with Hussein.

Hussein, champion for almost two years, knocked Doherty to the canvas in the third round. But the repeated head butting started shortly after that, leading to warnings for both fighters.

**Biasion and Lancia confirm supremacy**

MONTE CARLO, Jan 27, (Reuters): Massimo Biasion rounded off a flawless five-day exhibition of supreme driving skills through the mountains of southern France by clinching the Monte Carlo Rally yesterday in a Lancia sweep of the top three places.

The Italian world champion, who had held the lead since the fourth special time stage on Sunday, virtually cruised to victory on the arduous final night which took the rally over three formidable mountain passes.

Biasion, 31, winner of the 1987 Monte Carlo Rally, finished a comfortable six minutes 27 seconds ahead of his young French rival Didier Auriol. Last year's winner Bruno Saby, also of France, was third a further one minute 14 seconds behind.

The Italian's total mastery of the often snowy and icy conditions and the problem-free performance of his Lancia Delta underlined that both he and his team will be clear favourites to retain the rally World Championship this season.



Biasion (centre) with Auriol (left) and Saby after the race. (Reuters wirephoto)

But Lancia's success in the event was marred by the deaths on Monday of two Swedish reconnaissance drivers killed when the Lancia of Alessandro Fiorio left the road and overturned.

The expected battle for

supremacy between Lancia and Toyota never materialised. The calm and methodical Biasion won nine of the rally's 24 timed stages and Auriol a further 10.

With Saby taking two others, Lancia only left three for the Japanese makes. Juha Kank-

unen took two in his Toyota and fellow-Finn Ari Vatanen the other in a Mitsubishi.

Vatanen, winner of the Paris-Dakar Rally earlier this month, went out while in fourth place overnight when his car hit a wall and went off the road on the Col de la Madone, just one-km from the start.

Finn Hannu Mikkola moved up to fourth place in a Mazda, finishing just ahead of Kankunen.

The unlucky Auriol, already almost five minutes behind before the final night, lost a further two minutes in the first timed stage with his fourth breakdown in two days.

But he emerged as hero of the night, taking victory in each of the final four specials despite the dangers posed by rally fans lining the route who threw snow and gravel on to the road.

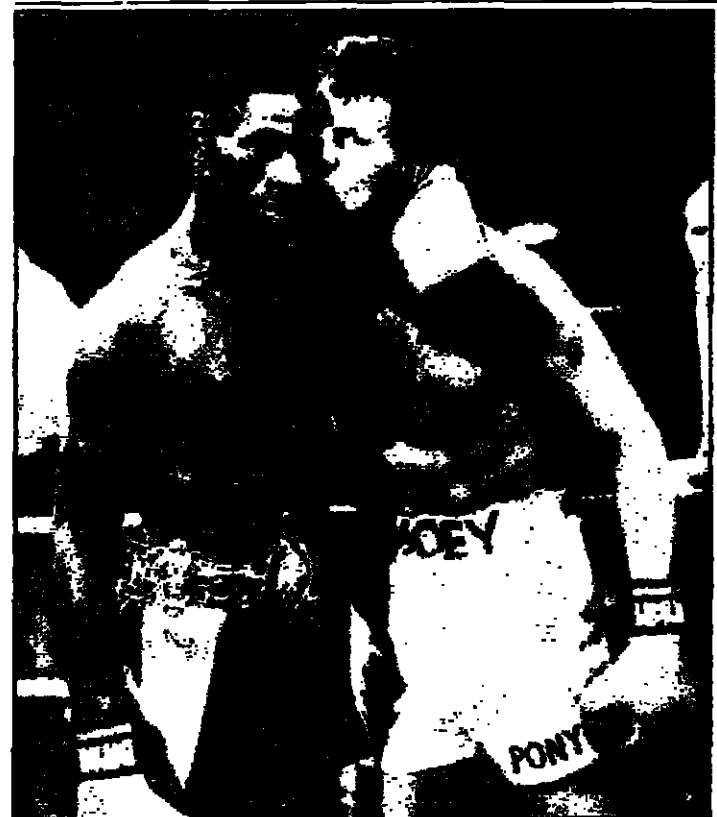
The difference between the styles of the two drivers was made clear by their comments afterwards. "I was careful with the gravel on the downhill stretches," Biasion said. "I attacked

like crazy," said the young Frenchman.

Auriol, winner of last year's tour of Corsica, was highly impressive in his first Monte Carlo Rally and must be considered a pretender to the World Championship of the Italian.

**Final positions**

Massimo Biasion (Italy) Lancia seven hours 13 minutes 27 seconds; 2. Didier Auriol (France) Lancia six minutes 27 seconds behind; 3. Bruno Saby (France), Lancia, 7:41; 4. Hannu Mikkola (Finland), Mazda, 12:14; 5. Juha Kankunen (Finland) Toyota, 14:49; 6. Patrick Snijers (Belgium), Toyota, 18:11; 7. Dario Cerrato (Italy), Lancia, 30:54; 8. Marc Duez (Belgium) BMW, 34:02; 9. Paola de Martini (Italy) Audi, 45:06; 10. Alain Oreille (France) Renault, 46:06; 11. Christophe Spiliotis (Monaco) Audi, 47:47; 12. Gregoire de Mevius (Belgium) Mazda, 47:50; 13. Bertrand Balas (France) Lancia, 48:25; 14. Eric Ferreux (France), Renault, 53:44; 15. Benoit Duchene (France), Renault, 59:10.



● Tony Wilson (left) a Wolverhampton and West Ham boxer, gets a kiss on the cheek from the man he just beat, Liverpool's Brian Schumacher, in Bethnal Green, east London Wednesday night. Wilson retained his British light heavyweight crown, earning a Lonsdale belt outright, when the referee stopped the fight in the third round. (Reuters wirephoto)

**S. Africa has no immediate plans for rebel tour**

JOHANNESBURG, Jan 27, (Reuters): South Africa has no immediate plans to host a rebel cricket tour although some England Test cricketers have made inquiries. South African Cricket Union (SACU) president Joe Parnesky said.

Certain England Test players did approach us about a possible tour," Parnesky told reporters yesterday.

"We will not pursue the matter at this stage. We'll decide when another unofficial tour suits our needs."

On Tuesday the International Cricket Conference (ICC) announced Test bans of up to five years for cricketers playing or coaching in the racially-divided republic. Parnesky attended the meeting as an observer.

SACU managing director Ali Bacher said the England Players Association had offered many of its players as coaches to help raise cricket standards in South Africa schools.

"We can confidently anticipate over 40 England professionals active as coaches," Bacher said.

**Negotiated**

Both men denied reports that players were being offered huge sums to play in South Africa. "We have not signed up any players nor have we negotiated with any," Bacher said.

He said SACU preferred to concentrate on creating the strongest possible domestic cricket scene, adding: "Unofficial tours... are not crucial right now to keep South African cricket vibrant. We won't survive or fall on international tours."



## SPORTS BRIEFS

## Austrian player

LONDON, Jan 27, (UPI): Graham Taylor, manager of English soccer League First Division club Aston Villa, is considering making a bid of about £275,000 pounds (\$485,000) for Austrian under-21 international Alex Spear.

## Inter fined

BERN, Jan 27, (UPI): UEFA's disciplinary committee today announced a fine of 225,000 Swiss francs (\$150,000) against Italian Club Internazionale for rule violations and crowd misbehaviour at its Dec 7 match against Bayern Munich.

## Arsenal defender

LONDON, Jan 27, (UPI): Arsenal Central defender David O'Leary has been recalled to the Republic of Ireland squad for a friendly international against France on Tuesday, Feb 7.

## Boxing champions

NEW YORK, Jan 27, (Reuters): A June 12 rematch between five-time boxing champions Sugar Ray Leonard and Thomas Hearns will be announced next Tuesday, a spokesman for promoter Bob Arum said on Wednesday.

## Cup quarterfinal

BERNE, Jan 27, (Reuters): The West German city of Cologne will stage the European Cup quarterfinal, second-leg tie between Turkish club Galatasaray Istanbul and French champions Monaco on March 15, the European Football Union (UEFA) announced yesterday.

## Pele Cup

SANTOS, Brazil, Jan 27, (Reuters): Uruguay beat Britain 2-1 (halftime 0-1) in a Pele Cup match for soccer veterans last night. In the second match Argentina beat Italy 1-0.

## Top athlete

NEW YORK, Jan 27, (AP): Florence Griffith Joyner, who won three gold medals and one silver at the Summer Olympics and had two record-smashing performances during 1988, Wednesday was named the Associated Press Female Athlete of the Year.

## E. German athletes

EAST BERLIN, Jan 27, (Reuters): East German Olympic women athletes medalists Martina Hellman, Diana Gansky, Heike Drechsler and Sabine John plus world champion Sabine Busch will not compete this year, ADN news agency said.

## America's Cup

BONN, Jan 27, (Reuters): West Germany's bid to enter a yacht in the prestigious America's Cup for the first time has been boosted by a major sponsorship deal, a spokesman for the project organisers said on Wednesday.

## Formula One

MONTE CARLO, Jan 27, (Reuters): The US Formula One Grand Prix is expected to take place in Phoenix, Arizona, on June 4, FISA said on Wednesday.

## New face

DUBLIN, Jan 27, (Reuters): Fergus Dunlea, a Dublin dentist, is the only new face in the Ireland team announced yesterday for the Five Nations Rugby Union championship match against Wales at Cardiff on Feb 4.

## German ahead

BOCA RATON, Florida, Jan 27, (Reuters): Dot Germain, who barely finished her first round when darkness fell at the Stonebridge Golf and Country Club yesterday, was surprised to find herself leading the \$300,000 LPGA Classic Golf Tournament.

## Stockton leads

PEBBLE BEACH, California, Jan 27, (Reuters): US golf tour veteran Dave Stockton turned back the clock yesterday with a seven-under-par 65 to take the first round lead at the \$1 million Pebble Beach national golf tournament.

## First cap

CARDIFF, Jan 27, (Reuters): Prop Laurence Delaney wins his first cap at the age of 32 in one of three changes announced by Wales yesterday for their Five Nations Rugby Union championship match against Ireland at Cardiff on Feb 4.

## Soccer manager

GOTEBORG, Sweden, Jan 27, (UPI): English soccer manager Bob Houghton, who has coached Swedish side Ogryste for two years, has accepted a profitable offer from Saudi Arabian soccer team FC Ittihad.

## Chris Evert

LONDON, Jan 27, (AP): Chris Evert says she will retire from women's tennis after this season and is considering an international farewell tour, British newspapers reported today.

## SEVEN PLAYERS BOOKED IN ROUGH QUALIFIER

## Marwi takes Kuwait past Pakistan

ALI MARWI scored a goal in each half to lead Kuwait to a 2-0 victory over Pakistan in their Asia Group Three qualifying match for next year's World Cup soccer finals at the Sabah Al Salem Stadium yesterday.

Kuwait with this victory retained their cent per cent record, having beaten Pakistan in Islamabad and later United Arab Emirates at home earlier this month.

The Kuwaitis were in control for most of the game, marred frequently by rough play in which five Pakistani players were booked. Two Kuwaitis also received yellow card warnings.

## Waited

With Kuwait forwards not finding their mark, the home side had to wait until the 42nd minute to the first half to get their first goal through Marwi.

The new-look Pakistani side, almost entirely changed after last week's 5-0 defeat by UAE, played nearly all the game in their own half and managed only one shot at the goal. The Kuwaiti goalkeeper, Khalid Al Shemeri, was in place to make a fine save.

A crowd of over 20,000, including several thousand expatriate Pakistani workers, saw Marwi seal Pakistan's fate with another goal in the 78th minute of the match.

Pakistan now stand no chance



The Kuwait team (left) and Pakistan before the start of the Asia Group Three World Cup qualifier.



of moving into the next round, having lost all their matches and one game, against UAE, left to complete their programme.

Kuwait need at least a draw against UAE to ensure their move into the next round. UAE have still to play Pakistan in their second match and will be aiming to run up another huge score against the same opponents.

They will also fight for victory against Kuwait so as to move ahead on goal average.

Lineups:

Kuwait: Khaled Al Shemeri, Naem Saad, Mahboub Jum'a, Mubarak Mazrouk, Adel Abbas, Wa'el Suleiman, Fahd Al Sayyed, Hmoud Fleitah, Abdel Aziz Al Hajeri, Hamad Al Saleh,

Ali Marwi.

Pakistan: Malik Mateen, Muzafar Iqbal, Tariq Hussein, Abdul Wahab Iqbal, Mohammed Awan, Sharafat Ali, Sarwat Iqbal, Mufeed Mohammad, Asghar Ali, Fadawi Rahman, Mohammad Selim.

Iraq downed Oman 3-0 (1-0) Friday in an Asia Group One qualifying match for the 1990 World Cup.

The result avenged a surprise 1-1 first leg draw in Muscat three weeks ago when a young Omani side played a top-class defensive game against the experienced Iraqis.

Ali Hussein opened the scoring in the 33rd to give the home side a 1-0 lead at halftime.

Natiq Hashim added Iraq's second goal in the 54th and Ahmed Radhi scored the third in the 82nd.

Iraq's win marked a successful debut for new national team manager Jamal Salah, who was promoted from managing the national youth squad.

The former national team manager, Viren Amu Baba, was fired on Monday after Iraq went down 0-1 away to Qatar last week in another World Cup qualifier.

A crowd of more than 60,000 packed the Al Sha'ab stadium for the match, the first soccer international to be played in Iraq since it went to war with neighbouring Iran in 1980.

The International Football Federation banned international play in both Iran and Iraq because players' safety could not be guaranteed. The ban was lifted after a ceasefire took effect last Aug 20.

## Lineups:

Iraq: Ahmed Jassim, Ghanim Luabi, Hassan Kamal, Adnan Dirjal, Karim Alawi, Ali Hassan, Ismail Muhammad, Khalil Alawi, Natiq Hashim, Hussein Saeed, (Ahmed Daham) and Ahmed Radhi.

Oman: Yousif Obaid, Saeed Frej, Aziz Nassir, Khalifa Abdullah, Muhammad Al Hadrami, Faraj Frej, Salim Mansour, Saeed Naser, Ahmed Khamis, Abdullah Hamdan.

## Smith and Berry help Kings edge Nets

NEW YORK, Jan 27, (AP): Kenny Smith had 24 points and 10 assists and rookie Rick Berry scored 20 points last night to lead the Sacramento Kings over the New Jersey Nets 112-109.

The Kings, who snapped a two-game losing streak, led by 12 points early in the fourth period, then held off a furious Nets' rally to win.

Buck Williams led the Nets with 21 points and Dennis Hopson had 18.

It was only the third win in 20 road games for Sacramento this season. The Nets have lost seven of their last 10 games.

In other National Basketball Association games yesterday, Washington trounced Indiana 126-106; Denver routed Miami 129-108; Houston defeated the Los Angeles Clippers 106-100; Charlotte edged Utah 89-88; and Milwaukee beat Portland 127-109.

## Bullets 126, Pacers 106

Charles A. Jones scored six points in the first three minutes of the fourth quarter and the Washington Bullets fought off a strong Indiana comeback to defeat the Pacers 126-106. It was the third straight victory for Washington and the fourth consecutive road loss for the Pacers, whose 1-19 road record matches Miami's as the worst in the NBA.

## Nuggets 129, Heat 108

Alex English scored 34 points and Walter Davis came off the bench to add 17 to lead Denver to a 129-108 victory over Miami, ending the Nuggets' four-game losing streak. The loss dropped the expansion Miami Franchise to 4-35 for the season.

## Rockets 106, Clippers 100

Trailing by 16 points at the half, the Houston Rockets rallied behind Sleepy Floyd's 17 second-half points, including eight in the final two minutes of

play, to defeat the Los Angeles Clippers 106-100. It was the Clippers' 13th consecutive loss and 11th straight on the road.

## Hornets 89, Jazz 88

Kurt Rambis grabbed a loose ball under the Charlotte basket and banked it in at the buzzer to give the Hornets an 89-88 victory over the Utah Jazz.

Bucks 127, Trail Blazers 109 Larry Krystkowiak scored a career-high 31 points and reserve Ricky Pierce added 25 to lead the hot-shooting Milwaukee Bucks over the Portland Trail Blazers 127-109.

Meanwhile, guards Michael Jordan of the Chicago Bulls, the National Basketball Association's leading scorer, and Magic Johnson, the leader of the two-time champion Los Angeles Lakers, topped the fan voting for the League's all-star game.

In the final balloting announced yesterday, Jordan, who is

averaging 35.1 points per game, received 1,003,062 votes. Johnson, the all-time leader in the all-star game in assists with 111, collected \$56,751 votes.

Joining Jordan on the Eastern Conference starting team will be centre Moses Malone of the Atlanta Hawks, guard Isiah Thomas of the Detroit Pistons, and forwards Dominique Wilkins of Atlanta and Charles Barkley of the Philadelphia 76ers.

The Western Conference starters, in addition to Johnson, will be centre Akeem Olajuwon of the Houston Rockets, guard Dale Ellis of the Seattle SuperSonics, and forwards Karl Malone of the Utah Jazz and Alex English of the Denver Nuggets.

The remaining all-stars will be chosen by a vote of the coaches in each conference and announced next week.

The game will be played on Feb 12 at the Houston Astrodome.

## IAAF waiting for Soviet documents

## LONDON, Jan 27, (AP): The

International Amateur Athletic Federation is waiting for Soviet documents to begin the process of recognising Rodion Gataulin's pole vault of 6 metres (19 feet, 8-1/4 inches) as an indoor record, an IAAF spokesman said today.

Gataulin, a silver medalist at the Seoul Olympics and the bronze medalist in the 1987 World Championships in Rome, cleared 6 metres at a meet in Leningrad, the Soviet news agency Tass reported on Monday.

The previous record of 5.97 metres (19-7) was set by Soviet compatriot and Seoul gold medalist Sergei Bubka in 1987.

## East Germans drop seven top players

EAST BERLIN, Jan 27, (Reuters): East Germany has ditched seven top players from the national soccer squad and unveiled a series of other measures aimed at raising the poor level of the game in a country renowned for its sporting success.

East German Soccer Federation (DFV) general secretary Wolfgang Spitzner said the action was mostly aimed at helping the national team reach the 1990 World Cup finals in Rome, but was also intended to improve the sport at all levels.

Spitzner sacked national coach Bernd Stange and his deputy last month — after East Germany lost 3-1 to Turkey in a world Cup qualifier — and promised further measures.

## Cosmetics

"The federation has come to the conclusion that a higher standard of competitive football is not attainable through 'cosmetics and patching,'" the Communist Party newspaper Neues Deutschland said today.

The daily and other newspapers published long reports on Spitzner's news conference on Thursday for East German journalists. Foreign reporters were not invited.

Seven national squad players, including Dynamo Berlin midfielder Rainer Ernst and Dynamo Dresden striker Ralf Minge, have been dropped because of injury or poor performances.

Spitzner named two assistant trainers, Heinz Werner and Frank Engel, top help DFV chief trainer Manfred Zapf, who was appointed in December to coach the national squad.

## Chaotic traffic mars yacht race

SYDNEY, Jan 27, (Reuters): America's Cup skippers Dennis Conner and Iain Murray fought through chaotic traffic on Sydney harbour yesterday to take a victory each in their 12-metre challenge rematch.

Thousands of people took to the water in whatever they could, from kayaks to floating restaurants, to watch the American take on local hero Murray.

"This is dangerous. It's hard on my insurance," Conner joked as he picked his way through a mass of pleasure craft to win the first race by just 10 seconds.

Conner, sailing Kookaburra III collided with a spectator boat on the way to the seven-mile run

from Bondi Beach to the opera house, forcing a delay while damaged rigging on the former America's Cup defence yacht was repaired.

## Postponed

The harbour was so crowded during the second race that officials cut the course short and postponed the third race to tomorrow.

Police boats with sirens howling vainly tried to force spectators enjoying the Australia day holiday out of the way.

Murray used his local knowledge to thread Kookaburra II through the densely packed fleet in light variable

winds. Conner was trapped among boats packed with cheering, drinking spectators who stopped to photograph him at close quarters, seemingly oblivious they had destroyed his chances and given Murray a two and a half minute winning margin.

Conner complained he lost the start of the second race because he allowed Murray space to avoid a crashing into the spectator fleet. Judges rejected his protest.

"We could have held our course and had a major collision but that didn't seem to us the fair thing to do," Conner told a news conference later.

## Lendl overcomes heat and Muster to reach final

MELBOURNE, Jan 27, (Reuters): Ivan Lendl and Miloslav Mecir battled sauna-like conditions at the Australian Open today to set up their second meeting in a Grand Slam final.

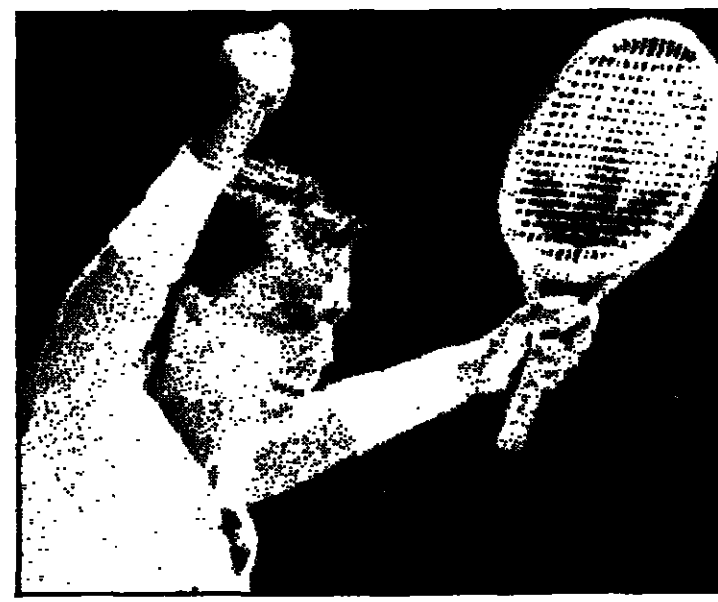
Lendl, among the fittest men on the circuit, all but threw away a two-set lead against Thomas Muster of Austria before pulling through an exhausted 6-2 6-4 5-7 7-5 winner after three hours of trial by heat.

Mecir, the Olympic champion, defeated unseeded Jan Gunnarsson of Sweden 7-5 6-2 6-2 to reach his first Australian Open final.

Lendl dealt comfortably with Muster for two sets, answering the grunting number 11 seed's crashing forehands with slice and accuracy to the back corners of the court.

But as the sun climbed higher over the court and temperatures rose above 40 degrees Centigrade the number two seed faltered, his power waned and Muster began to sap his energy by moving him around the court.

Muster took the third set and looked poised to take the semifinal into a fifth when disaster struck. At 5-5 in the fourth set the 21-year-old netted an easy smash, lost the game and a relieved Lendl served out the match.



Lendl raises his arms in jubilation after his victory over Muster. (Reuters wirephoto)

Lendl, having reached his second Australian Open final, said it was one of the hottest matches he had ever played. "I think we were both tired and in heat like that it's going to come down to who is more experienced and can take advantage of the chances he has," he said.

Mecir, once he had recovered from a 5-2 deficit in the first set, was a comfortable winner in the

other semifinal. Gunnarsson, playing on centre court for the first time, could not reproduce the exciting form which knocked out seeds Henri Leconte and Jonas Svensson in earlier rounds.

Mecir was at his most wily, mixing up his game and constantly deceiving his opponent with last-second changes of direction and shot.



Muster holds his head after missing a shot during his semifinal loss. (Reuters wirephoto)

Gunnarsson was full of praise for Mecir who lost the 1986 US Open final to Lendl in straight sets.

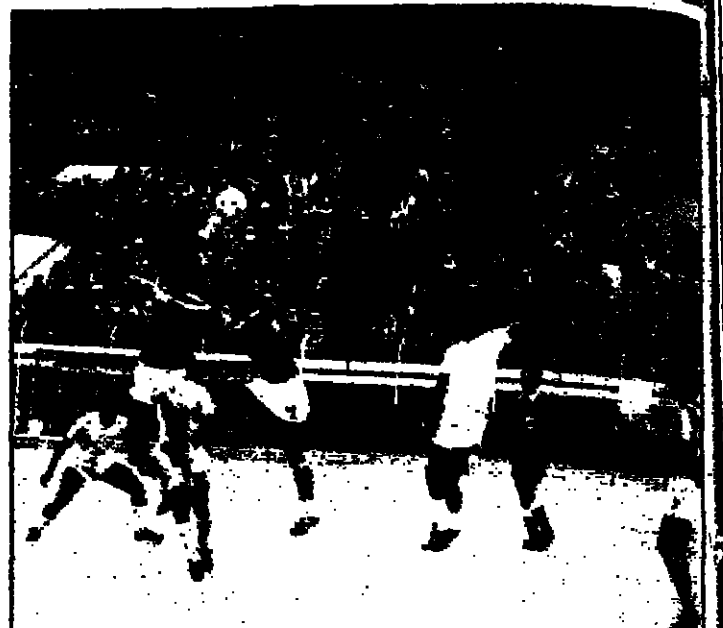
"He's difficult to play. He can play the ball where he wants on the court when he's really playing well," he said.

Neither Lendl, yet to win the Australian title, nor Mecir were prepared to make predictions about their sixth meeting but

Muster put his money on Lendl. "I think he's the most consistent player on the tour and I think if he keeps playing like this he deserves to be number one," he said.

If he wins here, Lendl will take over as world number one from Wilander who deposed the Czechoslovak after his US Open victory.

Yesterday, world number one



The Pakistani goalkeeper tries to clear the ball. (Photos by Javed Bano)

## Lawrence prepares his side with stern warning

LONDON, Jan 27, (Reuters): Charlton manager Lennie Lawrence has prepared his First Division strugglers for the FA Cup visit of giant-killers Kettering with the warning: "We are on a hiding to nothing."

Only two minor-League sides have won FA Cup ties on the ground of First Division opponents since World War Two.

Urged on by thousands of neutrals, the part-timers of Kettering and Sutton United, who travel to high-flyers Norwich, will be attempting to double that number with shock fourth-round victories tomorrow.

## Expressing

"Thousands of people all over the country will be supporting the underdogs and hoping we lose," said Lawrence, expressing the fears of all managers in line to become giant-killing victims.

"But if our attitude is right there should be no upset. If we can't beat a non-League club, we don't deserve to reach the fifth round," he said.

Charlton, fourth from bottom of the First Division, are unbeaten in 15 FA Cup matches against minor-League opponents, including a two-match tussle with Kettering in 1927.

Sutton manager Barrie Williams has little doubt about the outcome of his side's trip to Norwich, currently second in the First Division after leading the League for three months before Christmas.

"Norwich should give us a good hiding," said the former school teacher whose side put out

First Division Coventry in the third round with a shock 2-1 home win over the 1987 Cup winners.

"We know we have no right to be on the same pitch as them but it's a great honour to be at Carrow Road," said Williams, who has named the same side which shocked Coventry for the fourth round tie.

By contrast, Kettering manager Peter Morris is taking a 15-man squad to Charlton but plans to announce his side only 30 minutes before kick-off.

Holders Wimbledon will welcome back striker John Fashanu for the testing trip to Aston Villa. Fashanu, suspended for three matches following a tunnel fight with Manchester United defender Viv Anderson, steps straight back into the London side's attack with manager Bobby Gould promising: "He will add a cutting edge to our attack which has been missing the last couple of games."

Manchester United striker Mark Hughes and defender Steve Bruce have recovered from slight knocks and look certain to face Second Division Oxford at packed Old Trafford.

More than 50,000 fans are expected at the tie but United manager Alex Ferguson is still wrestling with the problem of who to leave out now that controversial Irish defender Paul McGrath is fit again.

Cup favourites Liverpool visit First Division newcomers Millwall in the televised tie of the round on Sunday.

## Clough charged by FA

LONDON, Jan 27, (Reuters): Brian Clough has been charged with bringing the game into disrepute by the Football Association (FA) after being seen throwing punches at spectators invading Nottingham Forest's City Ground pitch last week.

The FA said in a statement today that the Nottingham Forest manager had been charged and added: "The matter will be investigated by a disciplinary commission at the City Ground on a date to be announced."

"The incident of encroachment by spectators on the field of play which is the responsibility of Nottingham Forest FC will be

investigated at the same time, though at this stage no charges have been preferred against the club," the statement continued.

Millions of television viewers saw Clough lashing out at fans who swarmed on to Forest's pitch after their 5-2 League Cup win over Queen's Park Rangers.

The FA will ask him to explain his behaviour and may also ask him to explain his alleged comments in a newspaper article when he was reported to have said he would "do it all over again," in similar circumstances.

If found guilty, Clough faces a lengthy touchline ban and possibly a hefty fine.

## Luton edge through in Cup replay

LONDON, Jan 27, (Reuters): Luton maintained their grip on the English Football League Cup with a controversial 2-1 quarter-final replay win at Southampton on Wednesday.

Extra time goals by England discards Mick Harford and Ricky Hill earned the holders a two-leg semifinal against West Ham — after Southampton had goal disallowed and Ray Wallace sent off for a second booking.

Wallace appeared to beat Tim Breaker cleanly before crossing for Brother Rod to volley home after 68 minutes. But the referee, responding to a linesman's raised flag, awarded Luton a free kick.

An enraged Danny Wallace was pulled away from the referee by Luton's Danny Wilson and Southampton assistant manager Dennis Rofe rushed on to the pitch to help break up Southampton's protests.

Rod Wallace scored a late consolation goal after Harford's header and Hill's drive found the net. Wallace received the red card in the final seconds for a foul.